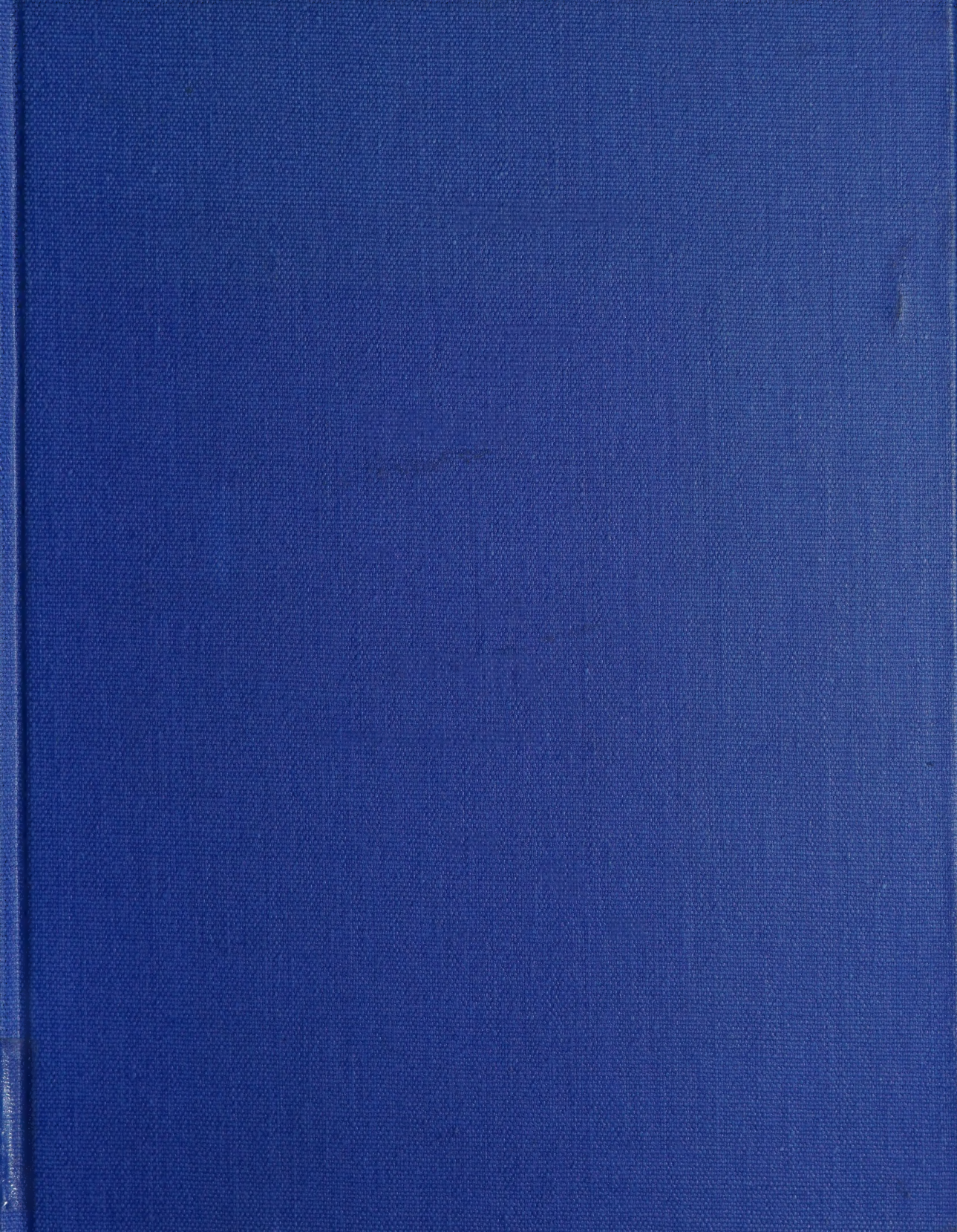




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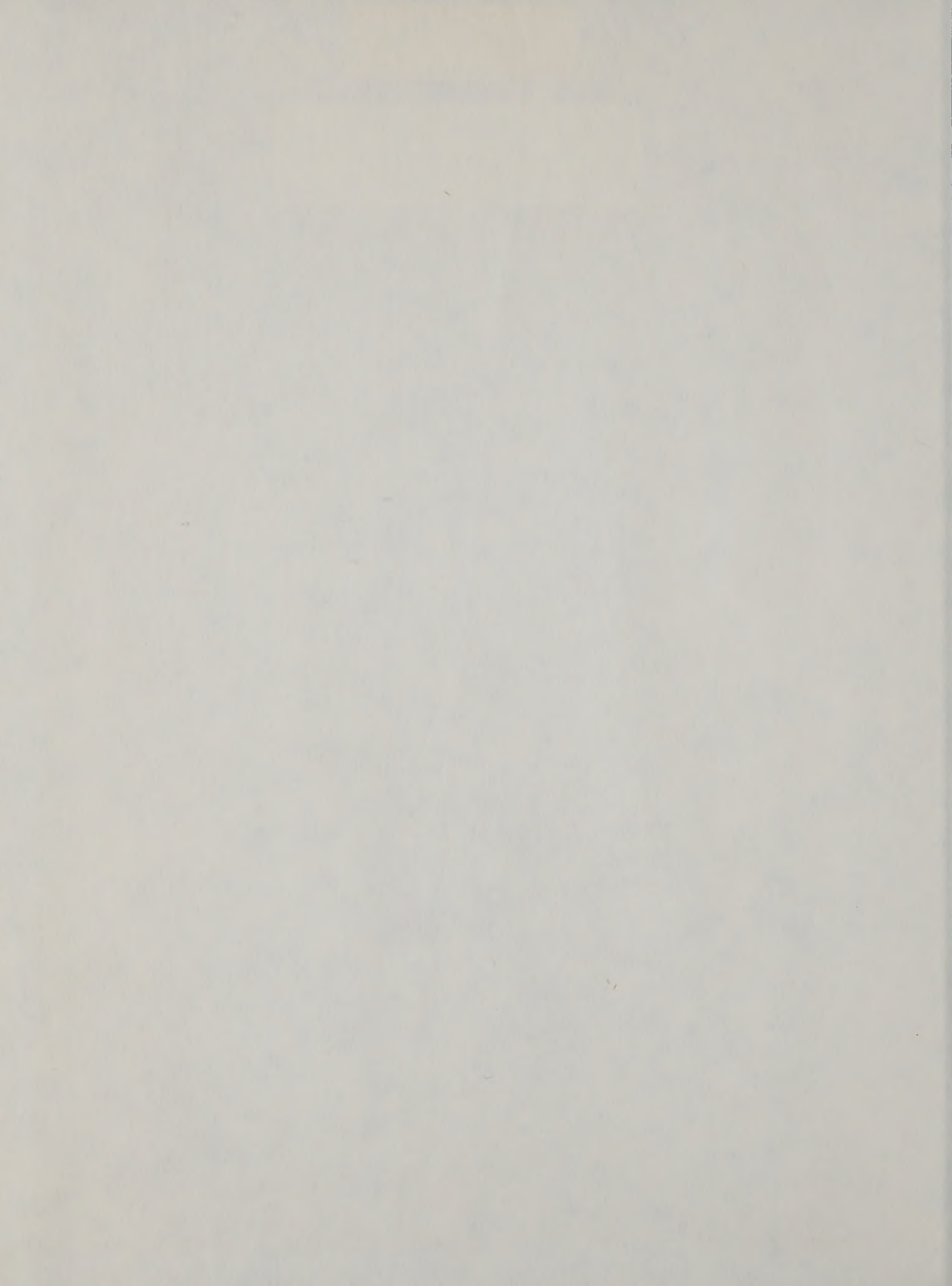
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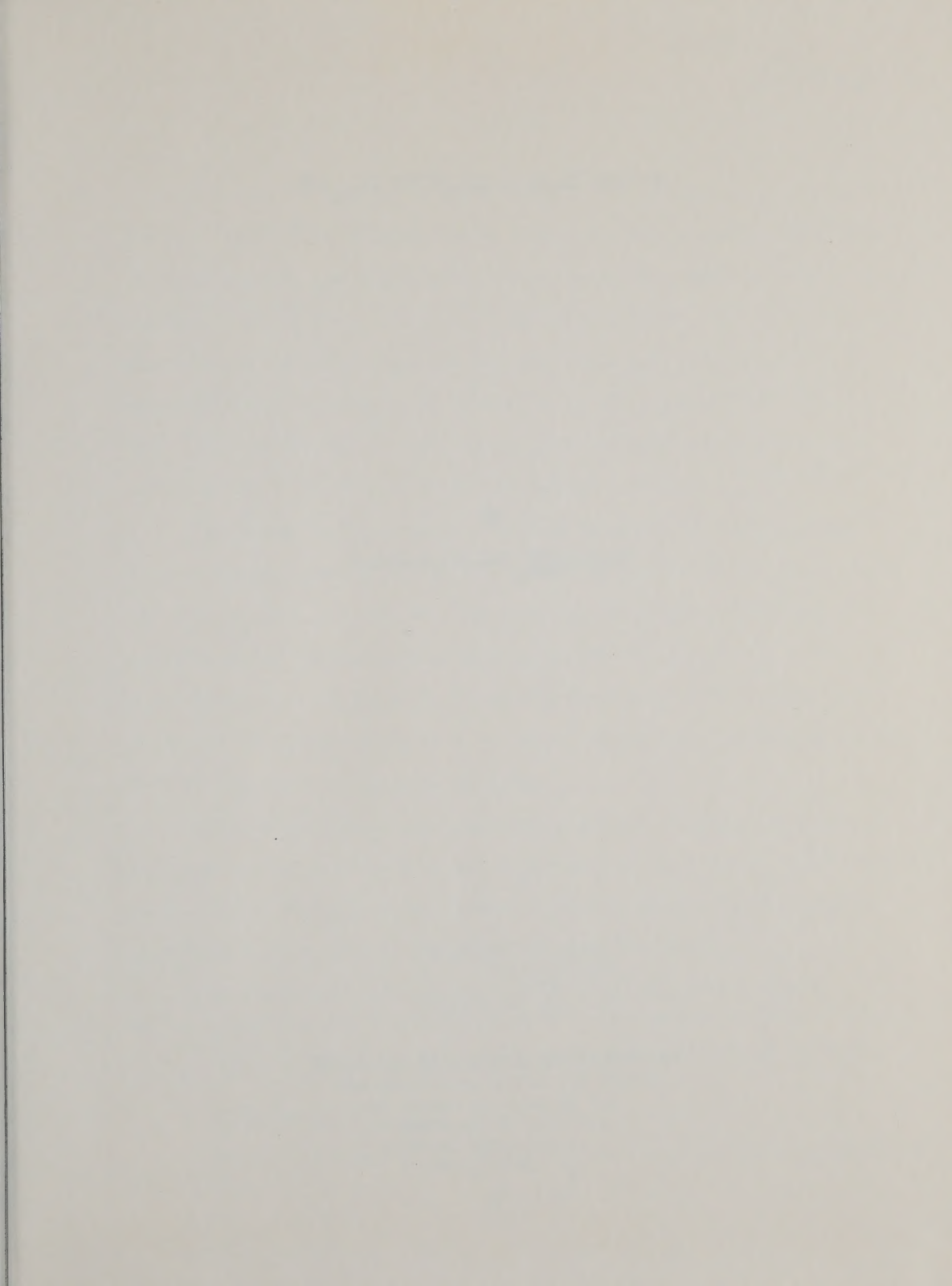
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THE LAND OFFICE BUSINESS IN
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THE LAND OFFICE BUSINESS IN INDIANA

BY

WILLIAM FORREST SHONKWILER

Submitted in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the degree
of Master of Arts in the
Department of History,
Indiana University,
June, 1950

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PREFACE

The subject of this thesis concerns the Land Offices located in Indiana. Certain other lands situated in southeastern Indiana were sold at the Cincinnati and Chillicothe land offices. Most of this acreage was located in the historic Gore and consisted of territory adjoining the Whitewater River in southeastern Indiana. This area had been ceded by the Indians at the treaties of Greenville in 1795, and of Fort Wayne in 1809. Part of it was surveyed between 1799 and 1805¹ and placed on sale before public land could be bought in Indiana territory.

6-22-53
The lands in this area were sold at Cincinnati because at this time it formed a part of the Northwest Territory. In 1802 Congress passed the Ohio Enabling Act and, to conform to the provisions of the Ordinance of 1787, placed all lands lying west of a line running north from the mouth of the great Miami River in Indiana Territory. The act was vigorously opposed by the settlers in the Gore,² bound, as they were, by political, economic, and social ties to Ohio.

Economic and social ties remained after the cession; therefore, purchase of land at the Cincinnati office was not as great an inconvenience as it seemed. The office was removed to Chillicothe in 1840 and Indiana lands continued on sale at Chillicothe as late as 1845.³

The Commissioner of the General Land Office in 1849 summarized the

¹Logan Esarey, History of Indiana, (2 vols., Indianapolis, 1918), I, 193; Indiana State Geological Report, 1882.

²Ibid., 181.

³General Land Office, Record of three and five per cent Fund Accounts, II, 71-87.

disposition of all public lands in Indiana, and in his report the following statistics are given for Indiana lands sold at Ohio Land Offices:⁴

Area, square miles	1,911.00
Acres	1,222,910.07
Acres surveyed	1,222,910.07
Acres placed on sale	1,222,910.07
Acres sold	1,179,259.50
Receipts from Sales, Dollars	2,023,766.67
Acres for Reserved school lands	37,172.33
Acres reserved for entry by bounty land Warrants, War of 1812	3,447.37
Acres of Unsold lands	3,030.67

In addition to sales of Indiana lands at the Ohio land offices, some Illinois lands were sold at the Vincennes Land Office as late as 1826. These lands formed a part of the Indian cessions made at Fort Wayne in 1803 and at Vincennes in 1804. This strip of land about three townships wide lay along the western bank of the Wabash and was attached to the Vincennes Land Office district in 1805. The lands remained under the jurisdiction of the land office until the Palestine, Illinois land district was created in 1820.⁵ Prior to July 1, 1820 Illinois lands to the value of \$105,494.82 were sold at the office and \$5,567.89⁶ was received for Illinois lands after 1820. It is interesting to note that before the Kaskaskia

⁴Senate Documents, 30 Cong., 2 sess., 1849-1850, II, no. 2 (ser. no. 520), 243.

⁵United States Statutes at Large, III, 571.

⁶General Land Office, Record of three per cent Fund Accounts, II, 59-97.

land office⁷ was authorized to sell land (1811) these were the only Illinois public lands on sale.

⁷United States Statutes at Large, II, 649.

Accepted by the faculty of the Department of History,
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for the degree Master of Arts.

_____, Chairman

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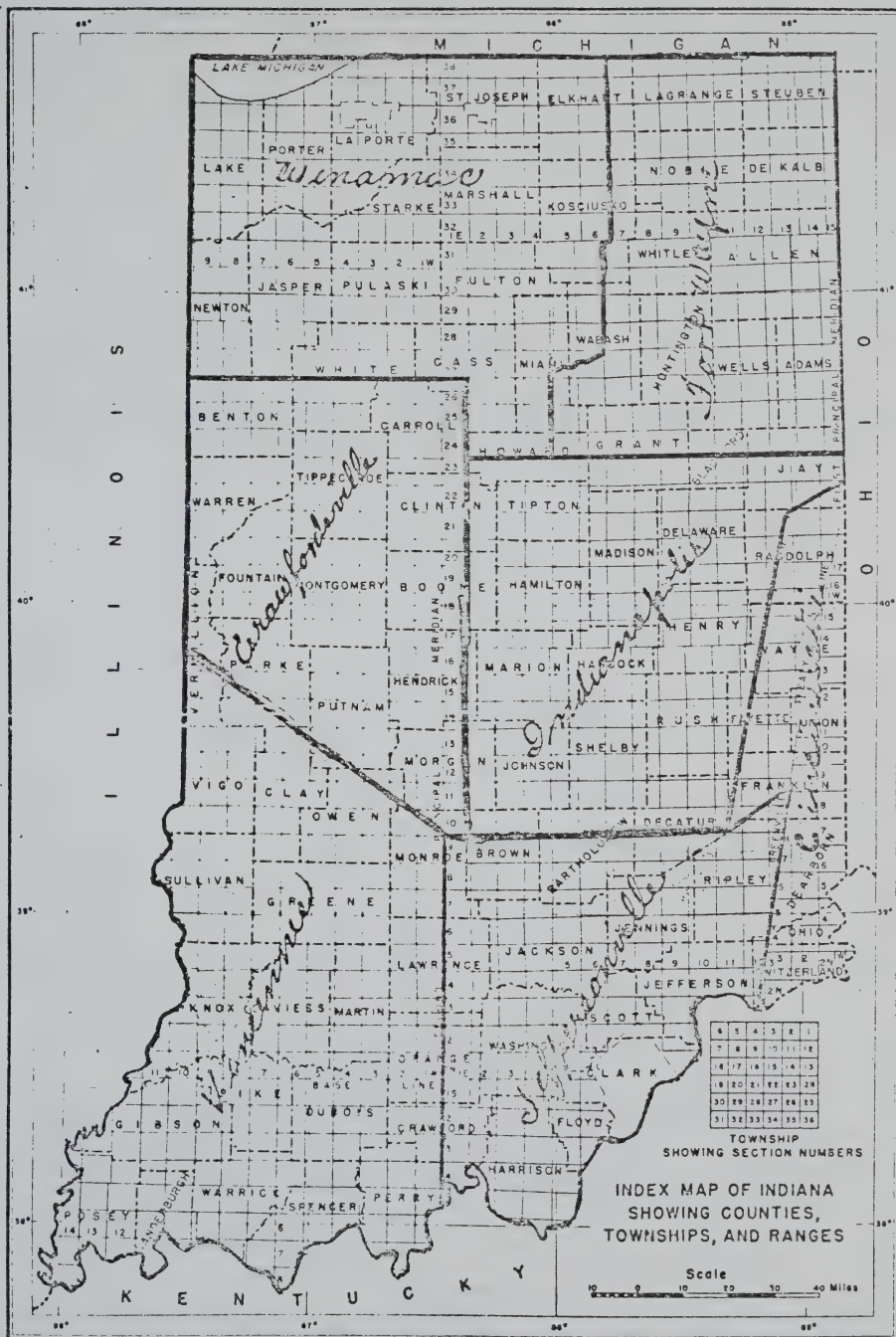
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Adapted from a map published in Senato Documents, 30
Cong., 2 sess., 1849-1850, II, no. 2 (ser. no. 530); the
original is among the records of the Department of the
Interior in the National Archives



LAND DISTRICTS OF INDIANA IN 1849

CHAPTER I

THE VINCENNES AND JEFFERSONVILLE LAND OFFICES TO 1819

The first land office in Indiana was established at Vincennes by the land act of 1804.¹ The sections of this act providing for the sale of the public domain were similar to the act of 1800² in that the price was \$2.00 per acre and four years were allowed for completion of payment. Efforts had been made to lower the price, but Albert Gallatin prevented this by arguing that the government badly needed the revenue from land sales. Buyers, however, were charged interest only on the unpaid portion of their purchase, and the act of 1804, by a series of discounts in effect, lowered the cash price to \$1.64³ per acre. As a further concession to the buyer the act changed the minimum purchase from 320- to 160-acre lots. This provision was of tremendous importance since it enabled a poorer class of settlers to buy land.

The Act of 1804 provided that the Vincennes land district boundaries be established along the lines fixed by treaties with the Indian tribes of the Wabash; as Indian titles were extinguished, land district boundaries were extended accordingly. Consequently, Indian cessions are an essential phase of land history. These cessions in 1804 included a narrow strip of land lying on the west side of the Wabash in Illinois, extending just above Terre Haute to a spot opposite the mouth of the White River

¹United States Statutes at Large, II, 277-278.

²Ibid., II, 73.

³Benjamin H. Hibbard, The Public Land Policies (New York, 1939), 73-76.

where it emptied into the Wabash.⁴

Lands purchased from the Indians lying between the Wabash and Ohio Rivers and the road leading from the falls of the Ohio River to Vincennes were attached to the Vincennes District by the Act of March 3, 1805.⁵

Before any public land could be sold it had to be surveyed, and subdivided into townships, sections, and quarter sections. Surveys in Indiana Territory were under the jurisdiction of the Surveyor of the Northwest Territory, whose title was later changed to Surveyor General of the Northwest.⁶ He caused surveys to be run and the proper data transmitted to the register of the land district and to the Secretary of the Treasury.⁷

After the surveys were sufficiently completed in 1807, the President proclaimed the lands for sale. The proclamation was issued at least three weeks before the sales and was published in eastern and local newspapers. Since much of the land offered for sale lay along the Clark Grants on the southeastern side of the state, nearly 100 miles from Vincennes, influential people petitioned Congress to establish a new land office more convenient to the lands offered for sale.

Territorial Judge Thomas T. Davis expressed the general sentiment in a letter to Thomas Jefferson in which he said, "A great portion of the Lands to be sold in April next lay near this place; could there be a Land office established here it would be very convenient; for why ride to St.

⁴C. C. Royce, "Cession of Land by Indian Tribes to the United States: As Illustrated by those in the State of Indiana," Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology, 1879-1880 (Washington, 1881), 253-259.

⁵United States Statutes at Large, II, 343.

⁶Ibid., II, 277.

⁷Ibid.

Vincennes to purchase Lands not more than five miles from here."⁸ As a result of this and other petitions, a new office was established at Jeffersonville, March 3, 1807.⁹

The language of this act was ambiguous, merely stating that a land district be established between the Cincinnati and Vincennes District. The land officers of the two districts were unable to determine the boundaries of their districts until Congress clarified the boundaries by passing the definitive act of April 30, 1810,¹⁰ in which the boundary was located at the second principal meridian. The second principal meridian had previously been established by the Surveyor General of the Northwest.¹¹

Some lands laying north of Jeffersonville land district were attached to that district in 1812.¹² The Brookville district was created, in part, out of the Jeffersonville land district by the Act of 1819.¹³ This act established the boundaries of the Jeffersonville district as "all the lands lying east of the second principal meridian and south of a line separating the ninth and tenth tiers of townships north of the base line." The east boundary still followed a line

⁸Clarence A. Carter, (ed.) Territorial Papers, of the United States (Washington, 1934), The Territory of Indiana, 1800-1810, VII (1939), 413.

⁹Ibid., 448-449.

¹⁰Ibid., II, 590.

¹¹Carter, Territorial Papers, VII, 233.

¹²Ibid., II, 684.

¹³United States Statutes at Large, III, 521.

drawn from the mouth of the Kentucky River northeastward to Ft. Recovery in Ohio; south of the line, the district extended to the Ohio River. Excluding reserved lands, the district contained 2,856,960 acres of public lands, the smallest land district in the State.¹⁴

The tangled private land claims also presented another perplexing problem. Among other official duties, Harrison had to investigate and determine the validity of the numerous claims granted by France, England, and the United States to land not confirmed by the Northwest Territorial government. These lands were centered around Vincennes, Indiana; the French settlements in Illinois, particularly Kaskaskia and Cahokia; and at Detroit, Michigan.¹⁵ McCarthy comments that the governor had power to confirm grants already made, but careful investigation was necessary to guard against fraud. The adjustment of claims was so slow, and fraud and imposition so generally practiced upon the governor that it became necessary to relieve him of the actual details of those investigations. Congress therefore passed an act in 1804,¹⁶ which provided for the disposal of land, and made possible an easier adjustment of those land claims in Indiana territory. The registers and receivers at Vincennes, Kaskaskia, and Detroit were authorized to form a commission to adjudicate private land claims, and after the ceded Indian lands had been surveyed, to sell public lands.

¹⁴United States Statutes at Large, X, 194.

¹⁵Dwight G. McCarthy, The Territorial Governors of the Old Northwest (Iowa City, Iowa, 1910), 472-473.

¹⁶Ibid., 277-278.

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John Badollet was appointed register at Vincennes, and Nathaniel Ewing¹⁸ was appointed receiver.

John Badollet, the first register at Vincennes, was born in Switzerland and immigrated to Pennsylvania. He engaged in politics as a Jeffersonian Democrat and was Associate Judge of Green County, Pennsylvania, in 1803.¹⁹ The Congressional representative from Badollet's district, William Findley, recommended Badollet for register at one of the new land offices. This recommendation was sent to Albert Gallatin, Secretary of the Treasury, a Swiss, and a personal friend of Badollet's. Badollet received a recess appointment as register of the land office at Vincennes, April 9, 1804.²⁰ His permanent commission was granted November 20, 1804.²¹ He was reappointed a number of times and served until 1836,²² when he was forced to resign due to ill health and advanced age. The length of his tenure is unequalled in the annals of the General Land Office. In 1816 he served as a member of the Indiana Constitutional Convention²³ and participated in many other activities.

¹⁷General Land Office, Miscellaneous Letters Book I, 183-184. This manuscript is among the General Land Office records in the National Archives, Washington, D. C.

¹⁸Ibid.

¹⁹State Department Appointment Files, Letters Received, March 28, 1804. This manuscript is in the General Land Office records, National Archives, Washington, D. C.

²⁰General Land Office, Miscellaneous Letters Book I, 183-184.

²¹Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate (32 vols. 1828-1909), 472-473.

²²Ibid., IV, 504; General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Vincennes Cash Receipt no. 10,079.

²³Charles Kettleborough, Constitution Making in Indiana (3 vols., Indianapolis, 1916-1930), I, 99-101. These are volumes I, II, and XVII in the Indiana Historical Collections.

The first receiver of the land office was Nathaniel Ewing, who received a temporary appointment as receiver of public moneys about October 15, 1804;²⁴ his permanent appointment was confirmed November 20, 1804.²⁵ Ewing's appointment was possibly delayed because Benjamin Parke, a close friend of Harrison, had applied for a position as land officer at Vincennes.²⁶

Ewing was born in Pennsylvania in 1772, of Irish parents. A trader and farmer, at the age of 16 he had visited Vincennes in a pirogue loaded with applies, salt, and furs and had engaged in trade with its people.²⁷ He had also farmed in the Wabash and Ohio valleys. Upon his appointment as receiver he settled in Vincennes and became interested in politics, business, and banking. He was a member of the Indiana Territorial legislature and president of the first bank established in Vincennes. This bank later failed, 1819, and the government lost over \$100,000 in deposits.²⁸ Also, in 1819²⁹ Ewing's accounts were examined and found short nearly \$5,000. While he was removed from office, the government was unable to recover most of this money. In spite of all this, when Ewing died in 1846 he was considered one of the wealthiest men in Vincennes.³⁰

²⁴General Land Office, Miscellaneous Letters Book I, 218.

²⁵Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, I, 472-473.

²⁶Carter, Territorial Papers, VII, 198.

²⁷George E. Greene, History of Old Vincennes and Knox County, Indiana (2 vols., Chicago, 1911), I, 323.

²⁸Executive Documents, 25 Cong., 2 sess., V, No. 111 (serial no. 325), 42.

²⁹Ibid.

³⁰Greene, History of Old Vincennes and Knox County, Indiana, I, 323.

When it became known that a new land district would be established in southeastern Indiana, a scramble resulted among local politicians for appointment as land officers. Territorial Judges Walter Taylor and Thomas J. Davis were applicants, as well as Abraham Edwards and Samuel Gwathney. Davis was endorsed by Jefferson, but died before appointments were confirmed; Walter Taylor withdrew, and Edwards lacked sufficient political backing to secure the nomination. Samuel Gwathney's application was endorsed by William Clark, a kinsman, William Henry Harrison, George Rogers Clark, and Thomas T. Davis. He was nominated by Jefferson, December 2, 1807, and approved by the Senate, December 9, 1807.

Gwathney was still a member of the Indiana Territorial Council when appointed and did not immediately resign. It was against territorial law for one person to hold two Federal Commissions at the same time and his appointment had been opposed on those grounds. The territorial legislature forced Harrison to declare Gwathney's seat in the Council vacant and accept his resignation. He served as register of Jeffersonville Land Office from 1807 until his resignation September 30, 1829, the second longest tenure in Indiana land office history. During his tenure, all the lands in the district were surveyed and placed on sale. Just before his resignation, he reported only 1,490,926.45 acres of unsold lands in the district.

The first receiver at the Jeffersonville land office was Major Edmund Taylor, a Virginian by birth, and a Kentuckian by residence. He was the grandson of George Taylor, of Orange, Virginia, one of the first families of Virginia. He had served in the Indian Campaigns in Ohio and Indiana under General Anthony Wayne, first as an ensign, later as a

lieutenant, and finally as captain of infantry. His application was recommended by Alexander Balmain and forwarded by Senator Thruston, of Kentucky, to President Thomas Jefferson. Henry Hurst was also an applicant. Jefferson nominated Taylor as receiver at Detroit, but changed the nomination to Jeffersonville, upon Thruston's request. He was confirmed December 4, 1807, though his commission was dated March 1, 1808. He served at the land office until his resignation May 5, 1820.

The United States Government under the several acts passed to regulate the sale of public lands guaranteed titles to land purchased in the public domain. Before sales could be held a method had to be worked out for the accurate measurement and description of small parts of the land. A pattern for surveys was established by the early land ordinances, and surveys, more or less experimental in nature, had been run in Ohio with varying results. The system as now used by the Federal government which originated in the land ordinance of 1785 and first tried in Ohio was³¹ finally perfected in the land districts of southern Indiana under the supervision of the Surveyor General of the Northwest, Captain Jared Mansfield.

Land was laid off in townships six miles square, and each township was subdivided into sections one mile square, or 640 acres. Each 640 acres were capable of being divided into lots of 320 acres, 160 acres, 80 acres, and 40 acres or even less. When the system was adopted in 1785, townships of 23,040 acres and alternate sections of 640 acres were offered for sale; in 1796 sections of 640 acres; in 1800, half sections, or 320 acres; in 1804, quarter sections, or 160 acres; in 1820, 80-acre tracts; and in 1832,

³¹Thomas Donaldson, The Public Domain (Washington, 1833), 178.

40-acre lots.

Surveys are based on meridian lines running north-south and base lines running east-west. The point of intersection of these two lines is called the initial point, and all lines are surveyed from this point. From these initial points, townships 6 miles square are established.³²

Southeastern Indiana was surveyed from the first principal meridian.³³ These lands were located in the "Gore" and in Clark's Grant. All other lands in Indiana were surveyed from the second principal meridian.³⁴ This latter line also governs a strip about four ranges wide (twenty-four miles) on the southeastern boundary of Illinois.³⁵

The early surveyor used a magnetic compass³⁶ to run lines. The needle often varied and had to be frequently lined up with the polar star. Because of cloudy skies this was at times a physical impossibility, and true bearings could not be ascertained. This resulted in many erroneous surveys, which sometimes were not discovered for years. Lands were hard to survey because of rivers, swamps, and dense underbrush. Since directions could be determined much better after the leaves had fallen, and hard frozen grounds could be travelled easier, many of the surveys were run in late fall, winter, and early spring. This resulted in many physical hardships. If the surveys were run in warm weather, the men often contracted malaria and became too ill to work. It was a hard life.

³²John S. Higgins, Subdivisions of the Public Lands, (St. Louis, 1887), 21.

³³Ibid., 23.

³⁴Ibid.

³⁵Ibid., 21.

³⁶Ibid., 37.

Surveys in Indiana were directed by the Surveyor General of the Northwest,³⁷ whose office was located at Cincinnati, Ohio, until 1845 when it was moved to Detroit, Michigan. The office was held by some exceptionally capable men. Rufus Putnam, a Federalist, was the first Surveyor General of the Northwest, whom Jefferson replaced in 1803 by Captain Jared Mansfield, formerly of the United States Army and a brilliant mathematician. Under him many important changes and improvements were made in the system of land surveys. Josiah Meigs, appointed Surveyor General in 1813, was succeeded by Edward Tiffin in 1815. Tiffin served until 1825 when William Lytle was appointed his successor.³⁸ Lytle died on March 18, 1831³⁹ while still holding office. Micajah T. Williams⁴⁰ was appointed to the office in April, 1831 and served until the appointment of Lucius Lyon.

The Surveyor General awarded contracts, appointed deputy surveyors, and correlated results of their work after it had been returned to the office. Field notes and plats were compared and entered in the Surveyor General's record books. Two copies were made: one was sent to the register of the local land office, and the other was transmitted to the Secretary of the Treasury, later the Commissioner of the General Land Office. When the Surveyor General thought close supervision was required he was authorized

³⁷Donaldson, The Public Domain, 170, 171.

³⁸Ibid.

³⁹General Land Office, Letters Received, Surveyor General of the Northwest, VIII, p. 231, dated April 13, 1831, S. Williams to Commissioner of General Land Office Elijah Maynard. This manuscript is in the National Archives.

⁴⁰Ibid.

to appoint deputy surveyors to supervise the work of all surveyors in an area or district. This practice was often followed by early Surveyor Generals, since their office was located too far from the scene of operations. As Mansfield wrote, "communication is slow, difficult, and often interrupted."⁴¹

The district or field surveyors were usually men of considerable experience in the profession. Their early contracts required them to run township lines, mark the corners, and make general notes relating to the land and draw plats of the lands surveyed. The land was surveyed under tremendous difficulty and errors often crept into the returns. Errors were caused by the difficult terrain surveyed, and the difficulty of finding the true meridian. Because of the convergence between the meridian at the poles of the earth, the distance between the meridians the farther north became less, consequently there was a smaller quantity of land to be surveyed into townships. Under the law,⁴² excesses and deficiencies due to error in measurement and the deficiencies from the curvature of the earth were thrown on the north and west sides of a township. This caused townships to be rectangular but not always a true square.⁴³ When a surveyor had determined the corners of a township, they were suitably marked in reference to some prominent land mark such as a tree, hill or stream. On the prairies, mounds of stone or dirt were erected to a height of three or four feet with a stone or post placed in the center of the pile, and

⁴¹Carter, Territorial Papers, VII, 275.

⁴²Higgins, Subdivisions of the Public Lands, 32.

⁴³Ibid.

suitable inscriptions cut on its sides which gave township corner, range and direction.⁴⁴

The deputies were required to note the kind of land, topography, drainage, whether timber or prairie, and the presence of minerals. Also, the position of all streams, lakes, swamps, and prairies were indicated on the plat. William Rector who ran the Indian boundary line along the trace between Clarksburg and Vincennes described the land which he surveyed in the vicinity of Santa Claus, Indiana, as follows:

The line passes over nearly an equal proportion of the following kinds of land viz. Hilly, rolling, level and flat. Tho I incline to think there is a greater quantity of that kind of land I call rolling than any other. The hilly land lies mostly at the upper or east end of the line, the greater part of which is pretty good soil, the hills are so steep that little of it can be cultivated to advantage, the timber found on this kind of land is Beech, poplar, Ash, Oak, Hickory, Black Gum, etc.⁴⁵

In the same letter he states

The place where I struck the Wabash is remarkable on account of its being opposite to two islands, and in a thicket of cane. I had all the cane within 20 or 30 feet of the corner cut down and several trees near the corner (besides the one on which I marked the number of the Township ranges etc.) blazed, so that the place can easily be found by any person wishing to do so.⁴⁶

Rector, like all surveyors, found the job disagreeable and laborious on account of the frequent rains, heat, lack of good drinking water, mosquitoes, and dense woods. Two of his men became ill with colds and fever, and one had to be left behind at the mouth of the Blue River. Several surveyors and helpers died during the progress of the first surveys.

⁴⁴Ibid., 42, 43, 44, 45, 46.

⁴⁵Carter, Territorial Papers, VII, 303.

⁴⁶Ibid.

Robert Buntin, who surveyed the lands along the Wabash and in the vicinity of New Harmony, reported that he lost his horses twice (probably because of Indians), causing a delay of eleven days. He also said that the Indians cut out the marks on several posts at township corners which he had established.⁴⁷

Early surveyors, such as Nathaniel Massie of Ohio, customarily received land in payment for their work, as money was scarce on the frontier. This payment was usually reckoned at \$3.00 per mile surveyed. Rufus Putnam, the first Surveyor General, had paid Ludlow and other Ohio surveyors at that rate. Mansfield reduced the price to \$2.50 per mile and \$3.00 per mile for difficult surveys,⁴⁸ which prevailed for several years. The average contract awarded in 1819 consisted of from 7 to 12 townships.⁴⁹

It is difficult to see how contractors could make money on these early surveys. Solar compasses, common compasses, transits and surveyors' chains were used and were usually provided by the surveyor. A typical surveying squad consisted of the surveyor, a flagman, two chainmen, an axman, and two men who erected mounds. In addition, pack horses and boats were used to carry food and other necessary supplies. Many of the lands surveyed lay 50 to 100 miles from the nearest settlement. The loss of food, horses, and instruments was a major disaster to the party because work had to stop until these necessities were replaced. As a result many of the early contractors lost money and it became hard to secure the services of good surveyors. Consequently, in 1809, Gallatin decided that up to \$3.00 per mile

⁴⁷Ibid., 345.

⁴⁸Ibid., 211.

⁴⁹General Land Office, Surveyor General, Letters Received, 1814-1819, V, October 25, 1819.

could be paid for surveys,⁵⁰ which was the rate generally used in Indiana.

Gallatin urged that a meridian be run from the mouth of the Big Miami River, which is in Ohio, and that the lands in Indiana be surveyed from this line. This would have thrown some Ohio lands already surveyed into the Indiana district. Several systems of survey had been used in Ohio, but none of the lines of these surveys would have coincided with the system as started in Indiana.

Mansfield then suggested that a meridian be run northward from the mouth of the Kentucky River to govern the survey of the Ohio lands; a second meridian be run between the falls of the Ohio and the Wabash Rivers for those lands in Indiana; and a third meridian passing through the mouth of the Ohio River for those lands surveyed in Illinois.⁵¹ He then proposed to count and number the ranges east or west of the respective meridians until they met.⁵² Surveyor Thomas Freeman, under the direction of the War Department,⁵³ had probably started to run the line, which the Second Principal Meridian was to follow, in 1803 and completed it before April 30, 1804.⁵⁴ Although Gallatin agreed to Mansfield's suggestion, he raised the question as to how the several meridians could be identified. Mansfield wrote:

⁵⁰Carter, Territorial Papers, VII, 661.

⁵¹Ibid., 350-351, note 89.

⁵²Ibid.

⁵³Ibid., 47, note 2.

⁵⁴Ibid., 192.

As to confusion, which may arise in describing a lot on account of similar orders of ranges counted from different Meridians, I confess, I cannot perceive much difficulty. If the Meridians from which the ranges are counted be designated, which will be very easy, what other designations can be wanted? The Meridian regulating the Ranges of the Vincennes District may be called the second Meridian, or if a local description be preferred, it may be termed the meridian passing by or near the mouth of Little Blue River.⁵⁵

Callatin replied June 25, 1806: "The objections against my plan of counting the ranges westwardly from the Miami, through the Vincennes and Miamias district are decisive, and your plan must be pursued."⁵⁶

How to survey private land claims and relate the surveys to the new system caused much discussion. It was finally decided to run the system of ranges and townships as proposed by Mansfield and then fit the private land claim surveys into this system. It was further decided that private land claim surveys would be laid off by the rectangular, rather than the zigzag, method, as had been the practice in Ohio and Kentucky.⁵⁷

The base line was established at a point just north of the confluence of the White and Wabash Rivers and followed the township line eastward to Clark's Grant, which Ebenezer Buckingham ran in 1804.⁵⁸ James Sission, William Hector, Stephen Ludlow, Alexander and James Holmes, Bent Stubbs, and Buntin were some of the men who surveyed land in Indiana Territory from 1803 to 1809. Thomas Freeman, under direction of the War Department, surveyed the Vincennes purchase in 1803, and Robert Buntin

⁵⁵Carter, Territorial Papers, VII, 351.

⁵⁶Ibid.

⁵⁷Ibid., 392.

⁵⁸Logan Esarey, History of Indiana, (2 vols., Indianapolis, 1918), I, 386.

ran many of the surveys of private land claims around Vincennes.

Mansfield reported in September, 1806 that all surveys had been completed in the Vincennes District except a few townships on the Wabash River, and plats, descriptions and a map of these surveys had been sent to Badollet.⁵⁹ He states that Buntin had reported surveys of some townships but had failed to make his returns.⁶⁰ Further on in the letter he suggested that it would be best to sell that fall lands immediately bordering on the Ohio. He described it as "All the country between the Falls and the Wabash and adjacent to the Ohio, which has been surveyed, as far north as the Townships numbered 3.3 South of the Base line."⁶¹ It was later reported that between 150 and 170 townships were surveyed and ready for sale.⁶² The President signed the land sale proclamation October 10, 1806, and set the date of sale of lands at Vincennes as the last Monday of April, 1807.⁶³

Once the system was set up and the organization perfected, all that was needed were energetic, capable men to do the work. Besides these early surveyors already mentioned, an incomplete list of later surveyors includes: John Hendricks, Allan Wright, John Milroy, Thomas Brown, Andrew Wallace, B. F. Morris, W. B. Laughlin, Basil Bentley, John Collet, William Polk, William Harris, John McDonald, and J. A. Allen. These men, and others not

⁵⁹Carter, Territorial Papers, VII, 387.

⁶⁰Ibid.

⁶¹Ibid., 388.

⁶²Ibid., 391.

⁶³Ibid., 395.

mentioned, removed southern Indiana from the realm of the unexplored and unknown in less than five years. They made it possible for the wave of settlers who poured into the state after the Treaty of Ghent to secure good titles to land purchased by them.

The Vincennes and Jeffersonville land districts were the testing ground of our present system of land surveys. Once the system was perfected, lands were surveyed accurately and rapidly. They could be described with certainty and it enabled the government to issue and guarantee all land patents.

Indiana territory was created by an act of Congress in 1800.⁶⁴ This territory for some years consisted of the present states of Indiana, Illinois, and in 1802, Michigan. William Henry Harrison was appointed Territorial Governor and also Indian Commissioner. Title to most of the land in the territory was still held by the Indians. In Indiana only a strip on the southeast side of the state extending from the mouth of the Kentucky River north to Fort Recovery; Clark's Grant, around the Falls of the Ohio; a tract around Vincennes; and a small tract at the present site of Fort Wayne were in the hands of the white man.

As Indian Commissioner, Harrison was authorized to purchase lands from the Indians, and he soon proceeded to do this. Indian claims to territory were shadowy and often two or more tribes claimed the same ground. Harrison tried to secure representation from all these tribes when land cessions were made. Often this was not possible, and negotiations had to be carried on separately with each tribe claiming the same lands.

⁶⁴ United States Statutes at Large, II, 58.

Indian tribes were treated as dependent nations by the United States and all negotiations with them were made in the form of treaties, ratified by the United States Senate and signed by the President. Between 1803 and 1809 Harrison concluded Indian treaties which extinguished title to nearly all their lands lying south of Indianapolis. Other important treaties were concluded in 1818, 1826, 1828, 1832, and 1840, along with scores of less important agreements.

Important treaties which ceded lands in the Vincennes, Jeffersonville and Brookville districts were: ⁶⁵

1. Treaty of Fort Wayne, June 7, 1803: redefined and reaffirmed the title to 2,038,400 acres around Vincennes.
2. Treaty of Vincennes, August 18 and 27, 1804: included 1,921,280 acres of land between the Ohio and Wabash Rivers and below Clark's Grant, whose boundary was a line connecting the said tract and grant, to be drawn parallel to the general course of the road leading from Vincennes to the falls of the Ohio, so as not to pass more than half a mile to the northward of the most northerly bend of said road. It also reaffirmed the cession of the Vincennes tract.
3. Treaty of Grouseland, August 21, 1805: 1,572,480 acres bounded by the White River on the north, the Ohio and Clark's Grant on the south, the general boundary line running from the Kentucky River on the east, and the tract ceded by the treaty of Fort Wayne and the road leading to Clark's Grant on the west and

⁶⁵ Royce, "Cessions of Land by Indian Tribes to the United States," in Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology, 1879-1880, 258.

southwest.

4. Treaty of Vincennes, September 30, 1809: 3,257,600 acres, lands lying north of the Vincennes cession of 1803, between the Wabash and White Rivers and south of the 10 O'Clock line from (a line going the direction a shadow would fall at 10 O'Clock in the morning to the mouth of Ra(coon Creek) to the White River north-east of the present site of Brownstown. The line as drawn passed near Montezuma in Vermillion County southeastward through Gosport and ended at the Driftwood River a few miles east of Brownstown.
5. Treaty of Vincennes, October 2, 1818: 138,240 acres, a tract 12 miles wide west of the Gore and north to the headwaters of the Salamonie River in northeastern Indiana, and a tract north of Vincennes between the present Illinois state line and the Wabash River.

Although settlers began to squat on these lands and demanded that they be allowed to purchase them, Indian treaties, erroneous surveys and the adjustment of private land claims caused a delay in the first sales at the Vincennes Land Office. The Office was opened September 20, 1804,⁶⁶ by John Badollet, the register. Both John Badollet and Nathaniel Ewing received permanent commissions November 20, 1804,⁶⁷ and soon after assumed their official duties. However, no public lands were offered for sale at

⁶⁶ Carter, Territorial Papers, VII, 208.

⁶⁷ United States Statutes at Large, II, 278.

⁶⁸
Vincennes until April 27, 1807.

The first purchase was made by Jacob Richardson, of Clark County, who purchased 236.82 acres of land,⁶⁹ and purchases totaled 8,313.94 acres and \$4,316.51⁷⁰ during the first five days of the sale.⁷⁰ The largest tract entered was one of 1,632.60 acres bought by a Joseph Oatman.⁷¹ From the opening of the office until September 30, 1806, 22,950.90 acres were sold, valued at \$45,091.80.⁷² Many of these sales were apparently made to persons who had already selected their lands and in some instances squatted on them. By the end of 1811, 111,271.11 acres had been sold at the office.⁷³

Renewed hostilities with the Indians in 1811 resulted in the Battle of Tippecanoe on November 7. The War of 1812 made the situation worse since most of the Indians became allies of the British. Frontier Indiana, after the fall of Detroit and Fort Dearborn (Chicago), suffered Indian raids as far south as Pigeon Roost. Sales dropped appreciably, and many lands bought on credit were relinquished: in 1813, 13,366.31 acres of land were sold and 16,365.03 acres reverted to the government.⁷⁴ The treaty

⁶⁸Vincennes, Credit Prior Certificate no. 1; Vincennes Abstracts of Land Sales, 1, 1. General Land Office Land Entry Papers are arranged by land office and entry number. Papers relating to lands sold prior to 1820 are called "credit prior certificates"; lands purchased on credit under the various relief acts passed after 1820 are called "credit under certificates." Purchasers paying cash received a receipt showing land entry and payment. These were issued by the register and receiver, respectively. The early land entry papers are in the National Archives.

⁶⁹Ibid.

⁷⁰General Land Office, Abstract Book of Sales, Vincennes, 1807.

⁷¹Ibid., April 28, 1807.

⁷²American State Papers, Public Lands (8 vols., Washington, D. C., 1832-1861), II (1834), 444.

⁷³Ibid., 733.

⁷⁴Ibid., 444.

of peace signed between the United States and Great Britain late in 1814 freed Indiana from the Indian menace, and sales soon revived. From October 1, 1814 through September 30, 1815, 53,236.49 acres of land were sold in the district.⁷⁵ In 1817 sales jumped to 286,558.36 acres with a valuation of \$570,923.52, though during the same period 16,629.97 acres had been relinquished.⁷⁶ From the opening of the office until September 30, 1819, lands valued at \$2,861,221.20 $\frac{1}{2}$ were purchased; \$1,355,135.56 $\frac{1}{2}$ in cash was received; balances due from purchases totaled \$8,469,500.69; and \$21,356.07 $\frac{1}{2}$ had been forfeited to the government.⁷⁷ This was the situation at Vincennes, and similar conditions existed at all other land offices. The Commissioner of the General Land Office reported that nearly \$22,000,000.00 was due the government in 1821 from purchases of land at the time the credit system was abolished.⁷⁸ This huge debit and the general hard times, a result of the panic of 1819, caused Congress to abolish the credit system in 1820.⁷⁹

In the Jeffersonville district, Thomas Jefferson issued the first proclamation of land sales on November 19, 1807.⁸⁰ Public sales began on Monday, April 14, 1808,⁸¹ and continued for six weeks.

⁷⁵See Tables of Sales at Vincennes, 1814-1815, in Appendix of this paper.

⁷⁶Ibid.

⁷⁷American State Papers, Public Lands, III (1834), 460.

⁷⁸Ibid., VI (1860), 455.

⁷⁹United States Statutes at Large, III, 567.

⁸⁰General Land Office, Record of Proclamations no. 1. This manuscript is in the General Land Office records of the National Archives.

⁸¹United States Statutes at Large, II, 448-449; Jeffersonville, Credit Prior Certificate no. 1. This manuscript is in the General Land Office records of the National Archives.

An example of the relinquishment of land purchased on credit prior to 1820, the buyer having been allowed to re-enter a part of the land under the act of March 21, 1828

RELINQUISHMENT, No. 2129.

July 3 1829

I James Carnahan of Davis Co Ind.

do hereby declare *my* consent to the provisions of the Act of Congress passed on the 21st day of March, 1828, entitled "An act to revive and continue in force the several acts making provision for the extinguishment of the debt due to the United States by the purchasers of the public lands" and *I* do hereby relinquish to the United States all *my* right and title to, and interest in, the following described tract - and legal sub divisions of tracts of land, (the payment of which has not been completed) held by *me* and purchased at the Land Office at Vincennes, viz:

Date of Purchase.	Certificate herewith surrendered.		Tract or legal subdivision relinquished—whether section, half section, quarter section, half quarter section, &c. &c.	No of Section.	No. of township.	No. of Range.
	Number.	Date.				
1818 Nov 11	1819	Sept 29. 1829	W 1/2 SW 1/4	✓ 22	2 N	7 W
1817 Oct 24	54	July 28 "	E 1/2 SW 1/4	✓ 31	2 N	6 W
1819 Apr 19	1929	Sept 29. "	SW 1/4	✓ 45	2 N	5 W

And request that the sums paid on account of the purchase money of said Lands Relinquished, be transferred and applied towards completing the payment of the following described tract and legal sub division of a tract of Land not Relinquished, (the payment of which has not been completed) held by *me* and purchased as aforesaid, viz:

Date of Purchase.	Certificate herewith surrendered.		Tract or legal sub-division relinquished—whether section, half section, quarter section, half quarter section, &c. &c.	No of Section.	No of township.	No. of Range.
	Number.	Date.				
1818 Nov 11	1819	Sept 29. 1829	E 1/2 SW 1/4	✓ 22	2 N	7 W
1817 Oct 24	54	July 28. "	W 1/2 SW 1/4	✓ 31	2 N	6 W

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, *I* have hereunto set *my* hand and seal this 3^d day of July - 1829.

In the presence of,

John Badollet
Register

James Carnahan Seal

Gwathmey reported April 23, 1808,⁸² that sales had not been "as brisk as expected--It is thought that a considerable sale will be made in the upper part of the District." From April 14, 1808 to October 1, 1809, sales totaled 32,513.88 acres of land valued at \$67,963.91; between the period 1808-1811, 118,561.49 acres were sold at a valuation of \$122,539.61.⁸³

The annual sales dropped in 1812 and the first part of 1813, as at Vincennes; but in the period between September 31, 1813 to October 1, 1814 86,733.03 acres were sold at a purchase price of \$174,007.68.⁸⁴ Sales climbed to 125,902.69 acres in the accounting period 1815-1816 and more than doubled that figure during the next fiscal year.⁸⁵ In the calendar year 1817, 256,350.92 acres were sold at a purchase price of \$512,701.73, and 16,397.20 acres reverted to the government.⁸⁶ Forfeiture of land in the district started in 1811 and reached its peak in 1817. Between the opening of the Jeffersonville office and September 30, 1819, sales totaled \$2,456,178.09; \$1,410,090.51 had been received in cash, \$1,214,962.22 was outstanding, \$11,941.75 in land payments were forfeited to the government, and 112,514.36⁸⁷ acres of land in the district were relinquished.

The decline of land sales at Jeffersonville during the war of 1812-15 were not as great as the decline at Vincennes. This was due to

⁸²Carter, Territorial Papers, VII, 562.

⁸³American State Papers, Public Lands, II, 444.

⁸⁴See Table of Sales, Vincennes, for this period in the Appendix of this paper.

⁸⁵Ibid.

⁸⁶Ibid.

⁸⁷American State Papers, Public Lands, IV (1859), 65.

A Forfeited Land Stock Certificate

Forfeited Land Stock, under the Act of Congress of 31st March 1830.
Land Office at

Apr. 19 1837

\$ 100

It is hereby certified that the sum of
dollars and *cents, having been paid, in the mode and at the time bearing*
mentioned on account of the *of Section N^o.* *in Township*
of Range N^o. *and having become forfeited to the United States by*
Now, therefore, be it known, that this Certificate is receiv-
ble, in the manner expressed in the Act of 31st March 1830, entitled "An Act for the relief of
the purchasers of public lands and for the suppression of fraudulent practices at the public
sales of the lands of the United States," in payment of any of the public lands sold at
private sale in the

Date of Payment	Amount		Name of the person who made the payment.
	Doll ^s	Cts.	

Register of the Land Office.

the close proximity of the land office to more densely settled regions and also to the presence of troops at Cincinnati and elsewhere in Ohio. The total of lands sold during 1803-1819 was about the same as sales at Vincennes, but land relinquishments were not as large.

The purchase of land, even under the credit system, required a cash payment, either in specie or bank notes. Good money was always scarce on the American frontier. In order to purchase land and improve it, most of the available money was drained from the district. It was usually several years before a farm produced much more than the amount necessary to feed the tiller and his family. When a surplus was produced, the pioneer lived so far from markets, that the crops could not readily be turned in to cash. This was especially true of early Indiana. There was little ready money and that brought in by immigrants was soon used in the purchase of lands and the absolute necessities of life.

The bank of the United States had been chartered in 1791 to provide a means of stabilizing the currency of the nation. Its charter expired in 1811 and, because of intense opposition, the charter was not renewed until 1816.⁸⁸ During that period "wildcat"⁸⁹ banks sprang up and played an important part in the economy of the frontier. These banks issued notes, often without any specie backing, which circulated in many parts of the United States. The bank operated and its notes circulated only as long as the public had confidence in the institution. Notes of a bank might circulate at par in its own locality, but be subject to a heavy discount in another state or area. It was often possible for brokers in New York to

⁸⁸Esarey, History of Indiana, I, 264.

⁸⁹Ibid.

buy notes on a bank in Indiana at a 10 to 15 per cent discount, or even higher. Then the speculator, when a sufficient quantity had been secured, exchanged these notes in Indiana, or had an agent make the transaction for him. If the buyer had carefully chosen his notes, the bank on which they were drawn redeemed the currency at face value. This practice was called "note shaving" and became a flourishing business.⁹⁰

The prevalence of large quantities of unsecured notes caused the Secretary of the Treasury, in 1817, to direct that only specie, notes of the United States and currency of certain designated banks shown to be in good financial condition, be received at the Land Offices in payment of public lands. The receivers of public moneys were authorized to publish lists of acceptable money in the local papers at intervals. John C. S. Harrison published the following incomplete list in the Western Sun and General Advertiser at Vincennes on June 2, 1821.⁹¹

In addition to specie and bills of the Bank of the United States, notes of the following banks notes were acceptable; all the unincorporated Banks in the town of Boston, the cities of Philadelphia, New York and Richmond, Virginia; in the city of Baltimore, except the City Bank of Baltimore; in the District of Columbia, except the Merchants and Franklin Banks of Alexandria; and the following specie paying bank in the state of Indiana, The Farmers and Mechanics Bank at Madison, Indiana.⁹²

Purchasers of land at a land office frequently found themselves with

⁹⁰One of the best official descriptions of "note shaving" is contained in the report by the Land Examiner, Nathaniel West, who inspected John Spencer's books at the Fort Wayne Land Office. It is contained in Executive Documents, 24 Cong., 2 sess., 111, no. 142 (ser. no. 303), 19, 20.

⁹¹Western Sun and General Advertiser, Vincennes, Indiana, June 2, 1821.

⁹²General Land Office, Circular, 1817.

the wrong kind of money. They were forced to go to money brokers who changed their money into legal tender usually at a discount of from five to ten per cent. Often the money broker and the receiver of public moneys was one and the same person, and he not only used his own money in the business, but government money as well. The Secretary of the Treasury and the Commissioner of the General Land Office had forbidden the acceptance of these bank notes and the practice of "note shaving." An officer, when caught, was immediately removed.

The failure of "wildcat" banks, and especially of legitimate banks, caused much distress in an area. This is illustrated by the bank chartered at Vincennes in 1814, which failed in 1819 with great financial loss to the entire state.⁹³

The first Constitution of Indiana forbade the establishment of a branch of the United States Bank in Indiana.⁹⁴ Two banks were authorized in 1814 by the territorial legislature, one being established at Madison and the other at Vincennes.⁹⁵ The bank at Vincennes elected Nathaniel Ewing its first president. He was at the same time receiver of public moneys at the Vincennes Land Office. Proceeds of land sales were deposited in this bank and in its branches. The second bank of the United States received its charter in 1816, and in 1819 it refused to accept notes from Indiana state banks.⁹⁶ The bank of Vincennes had also sustained other

⁹³A summary of Government proceedings against the Bank of Vincennes may be read in Executive Documents, 25 Cong., 2 sess., 1837-1838, V, no. 111 (ser. no. 325), 42, 44.

⁹⁴Esarey, History of Indiana, I, 266.

⁹⁵ibid.

⁹⁶ibid.

losses and could not withstand this final blow. The bank failed with \$168,453.00 of government moneys on deposit.⁹⁷ The government seized all of the bank's available collateral, but that failed to meet the loss. Most of the officers of the bank placed their funds beyond the government's reach. About the same time the Land Office receiver's books were audited and Ewing was found short \$4,624.83 in his accounts. He was removed and the government secured a judgment against him for \$5,273.18.⁹⁸ Most of this sum was never recovered, although Ewing at his death was one of the richest men in Vincennes.⁹⁹ Bank failures always caused widespread distress and it took Vincennes a decade to recover from this financial blow.

⁹⁷Executive Documents, 25 Cong., 2 sess., 1837-1838, V, no. 111 (ser. no. 325), 33.

⁹⁸Ibid.

⁹⁹Greene, History of Old Vincennes and Knox County, I, 323.



CHAPTER II

THE VINCENNES AND JEFFERSONVILLE LAND OFFICES AFTER 1819

The government became alarmed at the large credits given for the sale of lands and the inability of purchasers to meet payments. It abolished the sale of land on credit by the act of April 24, 1820¹ and directed that public lands, after July 1, 1820, be sold for cash. The price was reduced to \$1.25 per acre, public sales were shortened to two weeks, and lands were offered in 80-acre tracts. The act further provided for the sale of reverted lands which were lands forfeited for non-fulfillment of purchase terms under the credit system.

Congress made a number of provisions regulating the sale of forfeited lands bought under this system. Generally they provided that the purchaser relinquish title to all land except that actually paid for, with the government granting him an option to buy any improved land. A different kind of relief act was passed March 21, 1823,² and substantially renewed in 1830, which provided for the issuance of scrip or land stock (credit on money paid for reverted land) made receivable at any land office. The Vincennes office issued \$20,652.07 worth of this stock between 1823 and 1830 and received certificates to the value of \$12,596.64.³ By 1832 the debt for lands purchased on credit was practically liquidated, though it had totaled nearly twenty-two million dollars.⁴ Purchasers relinquished 437,186.91 acres valued at \$894,787.24 in the Vincennes land district

¹United States Statutes at Large, III, 567.

²Hibbard, Public Land Policies, 96.

³American State Papers, Public Lands, VI (1860), 455.

⁴Ibid., 455, 456.

120-acre Land Warrant issued under act of 1855 to
widow of Thomas Scott, receiver, Vincennes Land Office,
1841-1844

11210

11210



Office of the Commissioner

IT IS HEREBY
that under the Act of March 3rd 1877 entitled "An Act in addition to certain
acts granting Bounty Land" and Soldiers who have been
engaged in (THE) **LIBRARY SER** at the United States.

Margaret Lee M. Scott, Captain

11210

For and to the use of the

is entitled to locate One Hundred and Twenty Acres at any land office of the United States
of the order and in conformity with the provisions of the
Act to be sold at either
day of June 1877

© 1877 No 92.661

Geo. B. Smith, Commissioner

(Note) You can locate this Certificate at any of the United States land offices or it will be located for you at the nearest office in which you request
to that effect under seal of the register of the State and Land Office in which you wish location made. If you wish it put up and sign the following application.

To the Register of the Land Office
at _____
in Township _____ of Range _____
County _____ State _____
I desire to locate this Certificate on the _____
of _____

during the effective period of these measures.⁵

The government had not reserved enough lands in Ohio to satisfy Revolutionary and Virginia military bounty land warrants and some warrants issued to veterans of the War of 1812 had not been received at the General Land Office. Therefore, Congress, on May 30, 1830⁶ granted authority to exchange the remaining unlocated warrants for scrip which was made receivable in payment for public lands subject to sale at private entry in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. Claimants were allowed extensions of time in 1832, 1835, and 1842 in order to prove their claims. The last measure, passed July 27, 1842, extended the terms of the act of January 27, 1835 to 1847, and all claims not disposed of within this period were forever barred.⁷ Acreage was entered under this act in the Vincennes District as late as 1844.

Few lands (less than 10,000 acres) in the Vincennes District passed from government ownership by this means. Holders entered 425 acres in 1831 under the military bounty land act; 2,750 acres were entered in 1837. A total of 9,898.94 acres were sold from 1831 to 1844 under these acts. Military land warrants, extensively used in northern Indiana and states further west were little used in southern Indiana. The flood of military land warrants, authorized during the Mexican War, appeared in 1847 after much of the public land, and probably most of the choice land in Indiana, had been sold.⁸

People who settled on the public lands and made improvements before

⁵Ibid.

⁶Senate Documents, 23 Cong., 2 sess., 1834-1835, I, no. 2 (ser. no. 266); 78-79; Donaldson, The Public Domain, 236.

⁷Ibid.

⁸See Tables in the Appendix.

People who settled on the public lands and made improvements before the land was actually offered at public sale were called squatters. These people improved the land and expected to buy it, but those who could not buy their land at public sale lost the profits of their work by having their land sold from under them. Frequently squatters petitioned for the right of pre-emption, or the right of purchase before public auction sale, which Congress heeded. For example, a very restricted pre-emption act was passed in 1817 favoring settlers who had fled from the Indians. Other measures for relief were passed in 1812, 1813, 1814, 1815, 1816, 1818, 1819, 1820, 1821, 1823, and 1824, culminating in the comprehensive pre-emption bill of 1841.⁹ These acts were operative for the benefit of persons holding not over 640 acres.

10

The pre-emption act of May 29, 1830, and subsequent acts had little effect on land sales in the Vincennes land district since nearly all of the lands in the Vincennes district had been offered in public sale by 1830. Only 21,632.41 acres were entered at the Land Office under the various pre-emption acts.¹¹

Sales at some of the older land offices had declined to such an extent by 1840 that Congress, under an act approved June 12, 1840, authorized the Commissioner of the General Land Office to close a land office and attach the unsold lands to the most convenient district "when

⁹ Senate Documents, 23 Cong., 1 sess., 1833-1834, II, no. 15 (ser. no. 432), 7-9.

¹⁰ Executive Documents, 26 Cong., 2 sess., 1840-1841, II, no. 78 (ser. no. 383), 20.

¹¹ Ibid.

this unsold acreage in a district became less than one hundred thousand acres."¹² This act was supplemented in 1853 by one which provided that when the cost of collecting land sale revenues at a land office amounted to one-third of the gross receipts, the President was authorized to discontinue the office.¹³

The Vincennes office was closed in 1855, on the authority of these two acts, but was reopened for one year by the act of July 27, 1854¹⁴ which provided for the settlement of unadjusted private land claims. The complicated business was not completed in the time granted, and Congress authorized a reopening of the office in 1856.¹⁵ A commission was established which consisted of a judge, John Law; the register, James S. Mayes; and the receiver, John C. Hebard; who were to adjudicate private land claims in the district. The board functioned until March 31, 1858 under this authority.¹⁶

When the act expired the land office was again closed. There still remained considerable routine business at the office, and influential politicians secured the re-establishment of the land office December 21, 1858¹⁷

¹²United States Statutes at Large, V, 384.

¹³Ibid., I, 194.

¹⁴Ibid., X, 313.

¹⁵Ibid., XI, 140.

¹⁶General Land Office, Letters Received, D 91601.

¹⁷United States Statutes at Large, XI, 373.



for a period of three years. The office was closed permanently December 20, 1861. Some of the records were transferred to the land office at Indianapolis, and the remainder were transferred to the General Land Office, Department of the Interior, at Washington.

During the first year under the cash system only 7,605.23 acres were sold at the Vincennes Land Office; and sales of land to July 1, 1829 totaled but 154,872.44 acres.¹⁸ There were several reasons for this decline: the failure of the Bank of Vincennes in 1819 dealt the community and district a financial blow which took years for recovery; many of the choice lands had been sold; and two new land districts had been opened north and east of Vincennes. The Commissioner of the General Land Office reported to Congress that from the opening of the land office to 1826, 1,377,075.36 acres were sold at a total valuation of \$2,211,617.52.¹⁹ Badollet, in response to a circular from the General Land Office, gave a summary of lands remaining unsold in the Vincennes district up to June 30, 1828,²⁰ as follows:

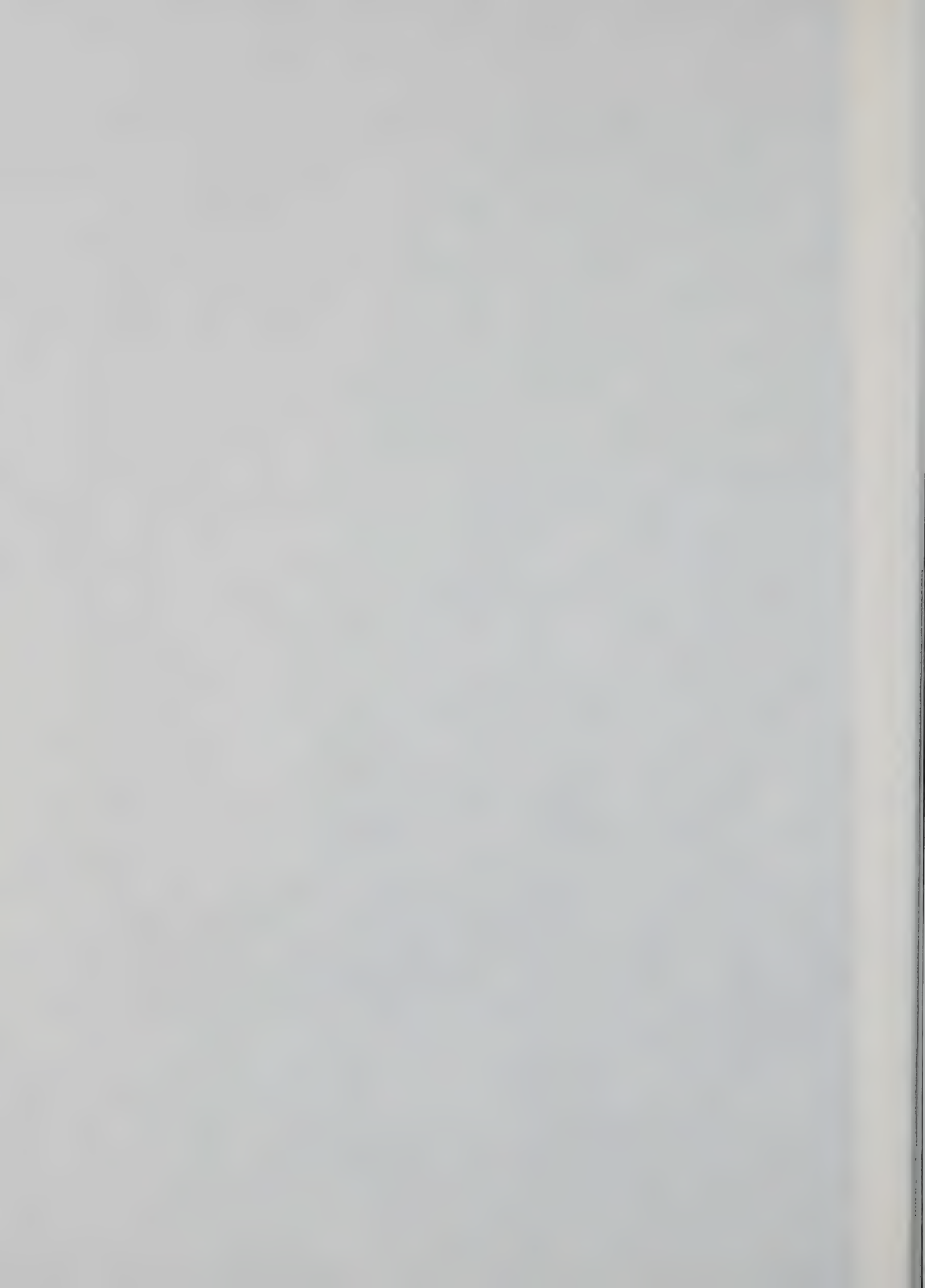
North of the base line, lands unsold amounted to	1,905,751.89 acres
South of the base line, lands unsold amounted to	1,496,970.42 acres
Triangle on west side of Wabash (in Illinois)	3,723.43 acres
Total unsold lands in district	3,406,445.74 acres

He further broke the distribution of unsold lands down by ranges:

¹⁸See Tables of Sales for Vincennes in the Appendix.

¹⁹American State Papers, Public Lands, IV (1859), 459.

²⁰Ibid., V, 545.



North of the Base Line

Ranges	Acres
1	103,731.07
2	120,979.83
3	196,147.69
4	213,193.47
5	214,717.99
6	252,491.21
7	231,127.12
8	226,756.93
9	145,009.21
10	136,870.51
11	38,312.45
12	1,411.36
13	

Total 1,905,751.89 acres

South of the Base Line

Ranges	Acres
1	103,368.50
2	131,032.61
3	132,510.27
4	119,651.11
5	114,035.03
6	137,063.37
7	131,305.35
8	119,717.29
9	121,253.07
10	81,120.72
11	87,546.00
12	91,618.47
13	52,525.32
14	47,959.13
15	6,513.60

1,496,970.42 acres

Agitation for a reduction of the price of land long in the market gained prominence at this time, and Badollet was further requested to report the length of time unsold land in the Vincennes district had been on the market.

He also reported the following:

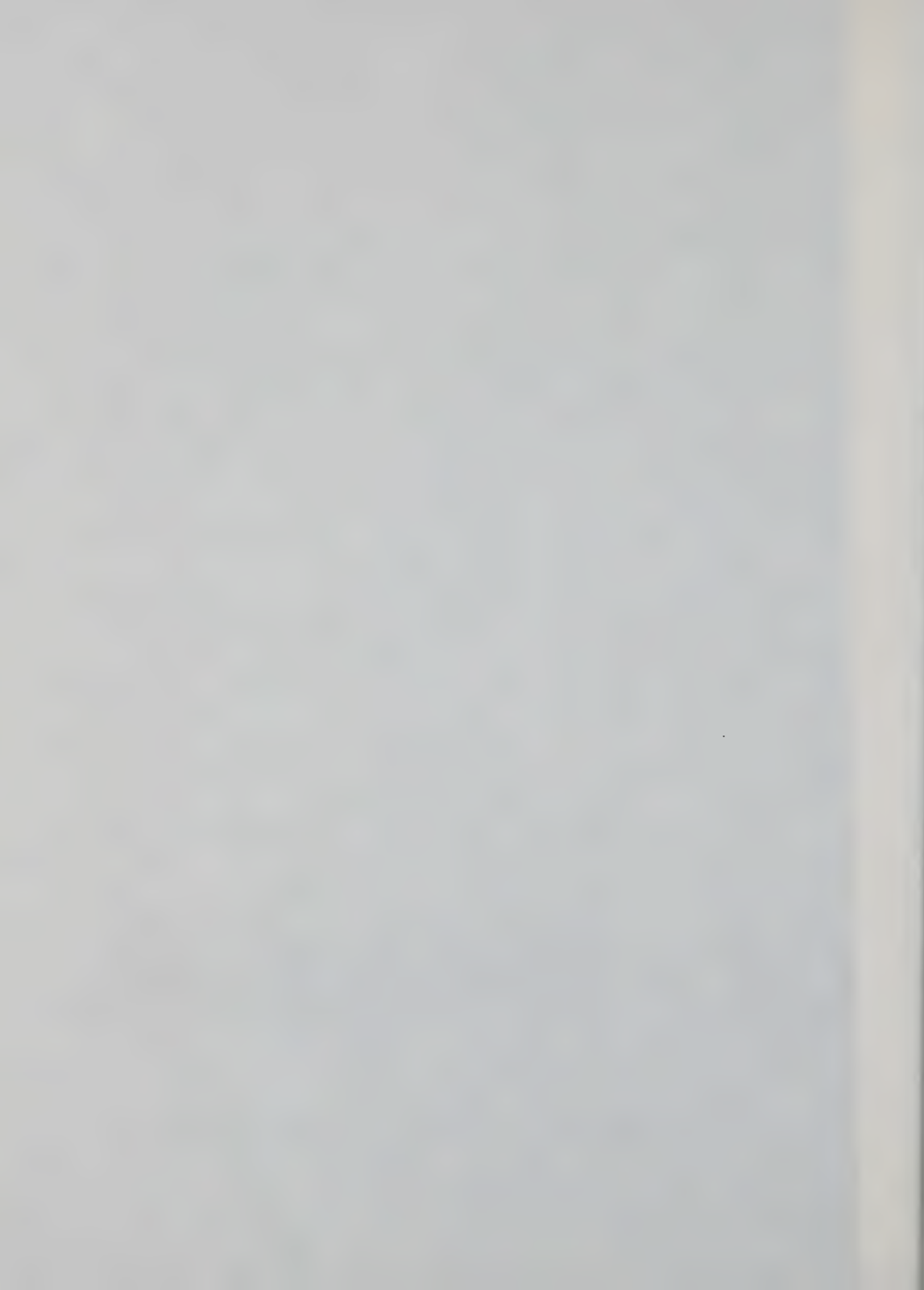
April 27, 1804--acres of land exposed for sale 1,826,750.41

September 9, 1816--acres of land exposed for sale 1,363,654.82

June 18, 1821--acres of land exposed for sale 216,040.51

Total acres exposed for sale 3,406,445.74

Badollet divided unsold land into three classes for valuation based on its desirability. The first class contained 851,611.43 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres which he thought would easily sell at \$1.25 per acre when financial conditions improved. The second class contained the same number of acres, but because of its relative inaccessibility, rolling character, and wet condition for a part of the year, he thought it worth much less, possibly seventy-five cents per acre. The third class contained lands inaccessible and generally



unfit for cultivation. There were 1,703,222.87 acres in this division. This estimate would include about one-third of the lands in the district.²¹ Badollet commented that the value of land depended on the amount of land in the market, general prosperity, the abilities of the purchasers, and the inducements to immigration. "Lands which had sold briskly at \$2.00 per acre, a price often increased by competition, sell now slowly at \$1.25 per acre."²² A discussion of these unsold lands appeared in a memorial of the Indiana Legislature (30 December, 1826),²³ which stated that lands on the market for many years

had no choice acreage left and the minimum price under the present system, is the same every where, without regard to length of time in the market. Persons wishing to purchase will turn their attention almost entirely to the public lands last offered for sale. Consequently the population becomes scattered over a wide extent, and many parts of the state where the lands have been long in the market received comparatively no increase of inhabitants from the tide of immigration.

The petition further stated that results of these conditions were as follows: roads could not be opened; taxes on land, the principle source of revenue, were not increasing (a state could not tax the public domain); and there was much destruction of timber on government lands. The legislators petitioned Congress to graduate the price of public lands according to the length of time in the market. Public agitation and political pressure subsequently increased for a lower valuation of lands long exposed

²¹ General Land Office, Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Commissioner of the General Land Office to John Law, XVII, 243.

²² American State Papers, Public Lands, V (1860), 544, 545.

²³ Senate Documents, 23 Cong., 1 sess., 1833-1834, I, no. 8 (ser. no. 236), 4, 5.

to sale, so that Congress passed graduation acts in 1854. Under these acts much land long in the market was sold at 12½ cents per acre.²⁴

Flooded lands, also difficult to sell, were provided for in swamp land acts of 1850, 1855, and 1857 which allowed the sale of such lands by the states if they would apply the proceeds of the sales to the construction of levees and ditches in flooded areas. The Swamp Land and Graduation Acts were effective in the disposal of worthless public lands in the Vincennes District. In 1854, 190,183.62 acres of land were sold, much of it under the Graduation Act, and the receipts amounted to only \$46,046.33. In the years 1855 and 1856, 15,850.35 acres were sold at a total price of \$3,081.90.²⁵

Several factors influenced the land boom in the 1850's. Undoubtedly returning national prosperity and increased population were major factors. However, it seems that the fundamental cause was the influence of internal improvements since the principal drawback to the settlement of the West was its inaccessibility to markets. There were no hard surfaced roads in Indiana before the advent of the railroad, and the people had to turn to its waterways and turnpikes. The Wabash and Erie canal and other projects promised to provide the means of transportation to needed markets. The Wabash and Erie canal was started in 1832 and completed in 1843. To aid in the construction, Congress granted a total of 1,457,366 acres to the State of Indiana.²⁶ Most of the land granted was situated in alternate sections on each side of the canal right-of-way and was offered for sale

²⁴Donaldson, The Public Domain, 291.

²⁵See Table of Sales in the Appendix.

²⁶Donaldson, The Public Domain, 258.

by the state at \$1.50, \$2.50, and \$3.50 per acre.²⁷ This had the effect of increasing the price of lands adjoining the waterways and aided sales all over the state by attracting new settlers.

The sharp drop in sales in 1837 seems to have been caused by Jackson's Specie Circular of 1836,²⁸ the panic of 1837, and the exhaustion of good public lands in the Vincennes District. Their influence was reflected in the Vincennes office. Sales dropped in 1837 from \$600,000 to \$419,000 and dropped again in 1838 to \$220,095.15. The annual receipts rose to \$292,406.78 in 1839 only to drop to a mere \$65,795.42 in 1840. They never again reached even the 1840 figure.²⁹

From the opening of the land office until September 30, 1843, 2,992,594.55 acres of land were sold at the office, and 1,635,134.73³⁰ acres remained unsold. The latter lands were probably in large part the same as those mentioned by Badollet in 1823 as being unfit for cultivation. It was reported in 1849 that only 361,887.94 acres remained unsold in the district; nearly half of this acreage was overflow or wet land.³¹

Beginning in 1830 sales picked up slightly, and in 1831 they more than doubled. In that year 73,839.42 acres were sold at a price of

²⁷Esarey, History of Indiana, I, 407.

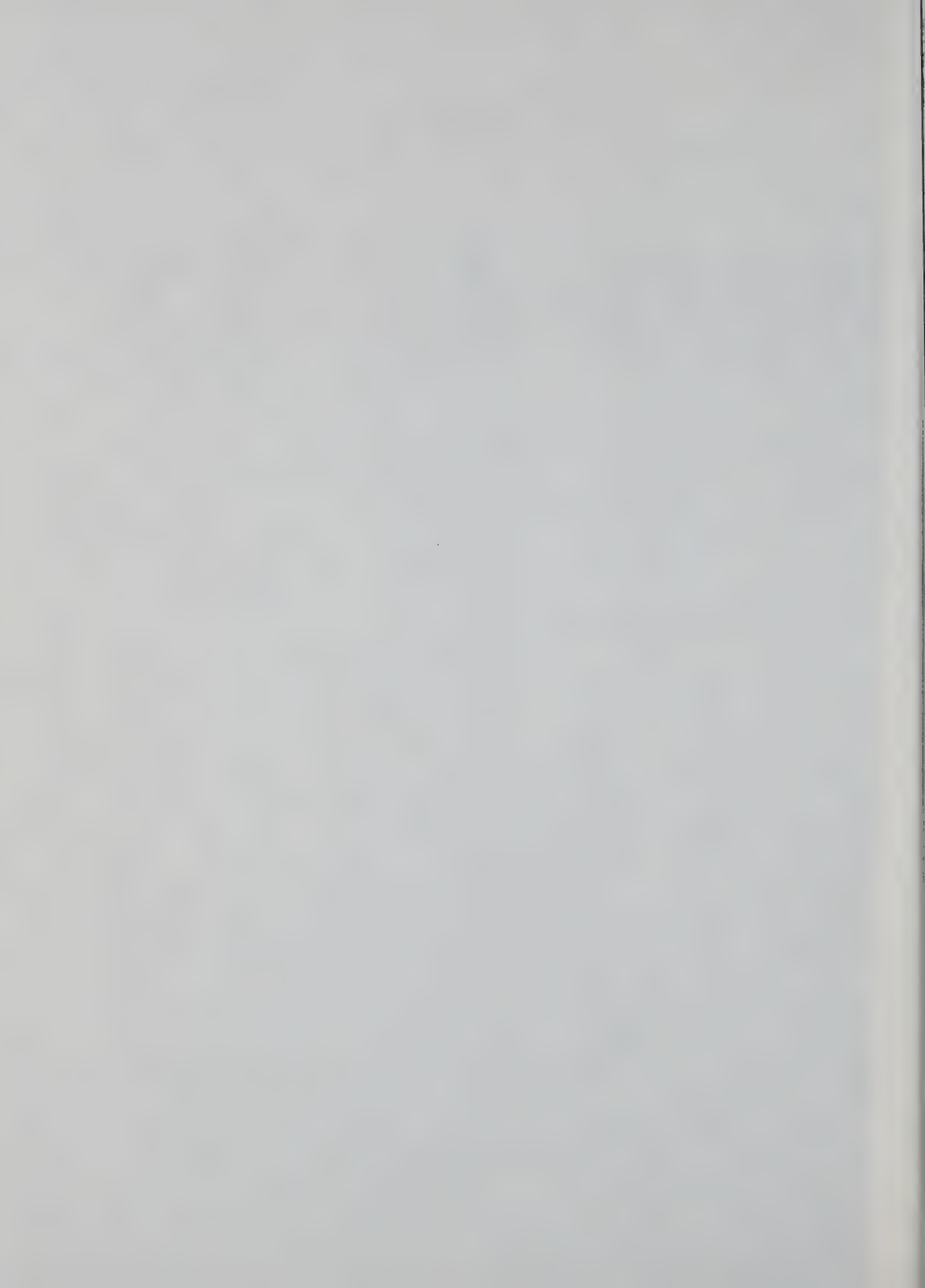
²⁸Ibid.

²⁹See Table of Sales for Vincennes in Appendix.

³⁰General Land Office, Miscellaneous Letters Sent, XVII, 243, Commissioner of the General Land Office to John Law, October 11, 1843.

³¹Executive Documents, 31 Cong., 1 sess., 1848-1849, II, no. 2 (ser. no. 530), 243.

Vincennes Credit Under Certificate no. 1922 issued to
James Bratton by Albert Badollet for John Badollet, register
at the Vincennes Land Office



CERTIFICATE, No. 1922

LAND OFFICE AT VINCENNES

IS HEREBY CERTIFIED, That *James Bratton* of *David Bratton* did on the *19* day of *April* 18*19* purchase the *North West* Section, No. *16* in Township No. *31* of Range No. *3* in the District of Lands offered for sale at Vincennes, which Lot or *quarter* Section contains *100* acres and *hundredths*, and was sold to the said *Bratton* at the rate of *2* dollars per acre, amounting in the whole for said Lot or *quarter* Section, to *200* dollars and *00* cents, of which there has been paid on

account agreeably to law, to the Receiver of Public Moneys at Vincennes, the sum of *80* dollars and *00* cents, (exclusive of interest) being *one fourth* of the purchase money for the said Lot or *quarter* Section.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT KNOWN, That *Wallace Bratton assignee of James Bratton* has surrendered the original First Certificate, No. *1922* dated the *19* day of *April* 18*19* and granted to the said *Bratton* and has filed a Declaration, No. *1923* dated the *11* day of *September* 1821, requesting further credit on the remaining balance, being *200* dollars and *00* cents, agreeably to the 3d section of an Act of Congress, passed on the 2d day of March, 1821, entitled "An Act for the relief of Purchasers of Public Lands prior to the 1st day of July, 1820." And be it further known, That if the said balance shall be paid to the Receiver of Public Moneys at Vincennes, or to the Treasurer of the United States, in *8* equal annual instalments, on, or before the days at which they may become payable respectively, that is to say:

The first instalment being	<i>30</i> dollars and	<i>00</i> cents, on or before the	<i>31</i> day of <i>March</i>	182 <i>2</i>
The second instalment being	<i>30</i> dollars and	<i>00</i> cents, on or before the	" day of "	182 <i>3</i>
The third instalment being	<i>30</i> dollars and	<i>00</i> cents, on or before the	" day of "	182 <i>4</i>
The fourth instalment being	<i>30</i> dollars and	<i>00</i> cents, on or before the	" day of "	182 <i>5</i>
The fifth instalment being	<i>30</i> dollars and	<i>00</i> cents, on or before the	" day of "	182 <i>6</i>
The sixth instalment being	<i>30</i> dollars and	<i>00</i> cents, on or before the	" day of "	182 <i>7</i>
The seventh instalment being	<i>30</i> dollars and	<i>00</i> cents, on or before the	" day of "	182 <i>8</i>
The eighth instalment being	<i>30</i> dollars and	<i>00</i> cents, on or before the	" day of "	182 <i>9</i>

(Each instalment to bear an annual interest of six per centum, from the 30th day of September, 1821, which interest will be remitted, if the instalments be paid on or before the days on which they become payable respectively,) then the said *Wallace Bratton, his* heirs, assigns, or other legal representatives, shall be entitled to receive a Patent for the Lot or *quarter* Section above described.

John Bratton
Register of the Land Office.

\$101,420.53. The number of acres sold in 1832 totaled 62,606, and by 1835 the land boom was in full swing. In 1835, 535,290.41 acres were sold at a price of \$669,146.61.³² Never again was that much land sold or money collected at the Vincennes Land Office in one year.

Gross sales receipts from 1807 to 1845 were \$3,609,443.39 which included all lands sold on credit prior to 1820. Cash sales from 1820 to 1845 totaled \$2,542,522.65.³³

From 1846 through 1853 gross receipts amounted to \$200,190.89; from 1854 to 1857, \$49,028.23. Receipts amounted to only \$3,781.19 for the period 1857 to 1861, and expenses of the office amounted to \$6,363.13.³⁴ During the period 1847 to 1856, 211,467.81 acres were purchased; from 1857 to 1861, 14,234.16 acres.³⁵ Lands sold under the Graduation Land Act of 1854 totaled 170,388.09 acres. Most of this land was sold at 12½ cents per acre.³⁶

A report by the General Land Office gave the gross proceeds of land sales at the Vincennes office from 1816 to 1845 as \$1,286,243.69, of which \$111,962.71 were the proceeds of Illinois land sales. During the same period the total sale of all six Indiana land offices amounted to \$18,734,619.69 which figure does not include the \$1,081,404.45 collected

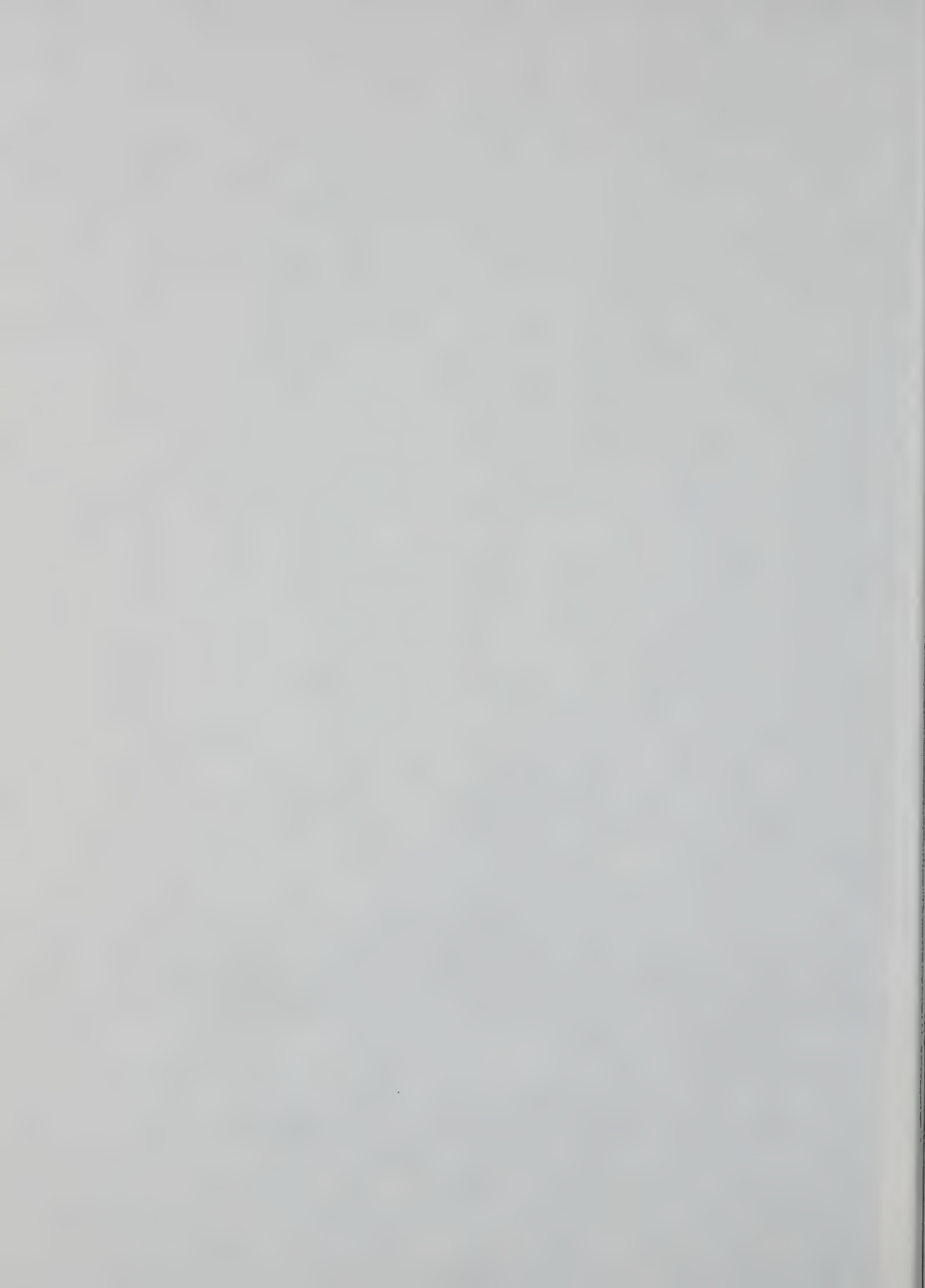
³²See Table of Sales for Vincennes in Appendix.

³³General Land Office, Statement of Fund Accounts, IV, 352-364. This manuscript is in the National Archives, Washington, D. C.

³⁴Ibid.

³⁵Ibid.

³⁶Senate Documents, 34 Cong., 1 sess., 1855-1856, I, no. 13 (ser. no. 840), 166-167.



for the sale of Indiana lands at Cincinnati, Ohio.³⁷

It can be seen by the preceding statement that some lands which would nominally have been in the Jeffersonville District were sold at Cincinnati and later at Chillicothe. This was partly because the Cincinnati office had been established in 1800, and the Indiana lands were never removed from its jurisdiction.

The Jeffersonville district was not established until 1807, and under the cash system 39,580.30 acres³⁸ were sold there in the last half of 1820. Most of the land sold lay in that part of the "New Purchase" annexed to the district and placed on sale in the summer of 1820.³⁹ Sales declined steadily until in 1823 they totaled only 5,244.44 acres. From June 30, 1820 to December 31, 1823, 155,873.59 acres of land were sold. During the same period the Vincennes office sold 154,872.44 acres; Brookville (later Indianapolis) sold 941,074.93 acres; Terre Haute-Crawfordsville, 697,489.68; and the Fort Wayne office 19,839.06 acres.⁴⁰

Some of the influences affecting sales at Vincennes also operated in the Jeffersonville district. Most of the more desirable land in the district had been sold by the late 1820's, while large quantities of good land were available in the new districts established at Brookville and Terre Haute. Gwathmey reported 1,490,926.45 acres of unsold lands in the Jeffersonville district in 1828; one twentieth were worth \$1.25 per acre, one tenth, seventy-five cents; seven twentieths, fifty cents; and one-half, twenty-five cents an acre. He estimated that one-fifth, or 149,092.64

³⁷General Land Office, Record of 3 and 5 per cent Fund Accounts, II, 49-59.

³⁸See Table of Sales for Jeffersonville in the Appendix.

³⁹American State Papers, Public Lands, V, 543-544.

⁴⁰Ibid., VI, 197.

acres of the last class unfit for cultivation.⁴¹

A part of these unsold lands had been on the market since 1807; nearly one-half had been placed on sale in 1803; another portion was placed on sale in the fall of 1816; and the remainder in the summer of 1820. He was convinced, however, that land prices should not be graduated according to the length of time in the market because "within the last three years it will be found that most of the entries have been made in the older and most settled parts of the district."⁴² His solution was to have a trustworthy agent or agents assess the value of public land in each district.⁴³

Jeffersonville and Vincennes were the only two land offices in the state authorized to issue land stock. Under the several acts of Congress passed between 1828 and 1832, the Jeffersonville office issued \$26,977.60 in land stock and received \$32,628.56 in payments. There were no issuances or entries of stock after 1833.⁴⁴ Some lands, between 1831 and 1841, were purchased by military bounties, but they totaled only 61,982.32 acres.⁴⁵

The boom period of the 1830's came late to the Jeffersonville district. Sales in 1833 totaled only 63,967.06 acres valued at \$79,984.21 and even in 1835 only 49,198.40 acres were sold and \$86,420.81 was received in payment.⁴⁶ The speculation in lands adjacent to internal improvements

⁴¹Ibid., V, 543-544.

⁴²Ibid.

⁴³Ibid.

⁴⁴See Tables in the Appendix; Donaldson, The Public Domain, 236.

⁴⁵See Table of Sales for Jeffersonville in the Appendix.

⁴⁶Ibid.

was not felt appreciably in the Jeffersonville district. Several turnpikes were built or improved and the Whitewater River Canal was started, but these improvements ran through regions already settled and exerted little influence on sales in the early 1830's.

Land office sales in Jeffersonville reached their all-time peak in 1836 when 287,584.36 acres were sold at a purchase price of \$359,486.85. Boom times had finally reached the district, but it was not to last long. Jackson issued his famous Specie Circular in 1836 and sales dropped to 176,057.75 acres in 1837, declined to 108,210.27 acres in 1838 and 110,254.52 acres in 1839. During these four years which, despite the panic in 1837, saw the highest sales, approximately 682,000 acres were sold with the proceeds amounting to \$852,000.⁴⁷ Most of the choice lands of the district went off of the market during this period.

In 1840 only 18,432.43 acres were sold in the district, with annual sales averaging about 20,000 acres during the 1840's. Lands formerly considered worthless became valuable as settlement increased; consequently the annual volume of sales continued on a steady level. The land officers reported in 1849 that only 418,125.38 acres of the public domain remained.⁴⁸ Most of this was disposed of under the swamp land and graduation acts. Between 1850 and 1853, 55,694.58 acres were sold at a price of \$57,859.55,⁴⁹ and in 1854, under the graduated lands act, 151,225.04 acres were sold at 12⁵⁰/₃ cents per acre. There was little unsold land left in the district when

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Senate Executive Documents, 31 Cong., 1 sess., 1848-1849, II, no. 2 (ser. no. 530), 243.

⁴⁹ See Table of Sales for Jeffersonville in the Appendix.

⁵⁰ Executive Documents, 34 Cong., 1 sess., 1855-1856, I, no. 1 (ser. no. 840), 166-167.

the land office was closed January 24, 1855 and the unsold lands attached to the Indianapolis District.⁵¹

John Badollet, discussed in the first chapter, was register at Vincennes until 1837. He was succeeded by his son, Albert, the assistant register under his father, who served until March 27, 1841.⁵² Together, the father and son held office during four decades and participated in the great land boom periods of 1816-1819 and 1834-1839. They saw the beginning of the office's decline due to the exhaustion of choice lands in the district and the opening of new lands north and west of Vincennes.

Doctor Hiram Decker,⁵³ a Whig, an Indian campaign veteran, and a personal acquaintance of President William Henry Harrison, was appointed in 1841. Harrison died soon after assuming office, and President Tyler removed Decker in September, 1843 because Decker said, "I refused to submit to a tax on my salary."⁵⁴ John Meyers was then appointed and held office until March 31, 1847,⁵⁵ followed by James J. Mayes, a native son of Knox County, Indiana territory and a Whig, who served until 1849.⁵⁶

⁵¹General Land Office, Proclamations of Land Sales, no. 528. This manuscript is in the National Archives, Washington, D. C.

⁵²General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Vincennes, Cash Receipt no. 30888. This manuscript is in the National Archives, Washington, D. C.

⁵³Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Files, Vincennes Land Office, Applications, 1849; Military Bounty Land Warrant Papers no. 80742, 40 acres, act of 1850; General Land Office, Notice to Registers of Appointments, I, 92. This manuscript is in the National Archives, Washington, D. C.

⁵⁴Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Files, Vincennes Land Office, 1849.

⁵⁵General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Vincennes, Cash Receipt no. 33328; Notice to Registers of Appointment, I, 221.

⁵⁶General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Vincennes, Cash Receipt no. 35216.

He was a friend of President Taylor and was removed after his death.

John C. Clark,⁵⁷ a popular Vincennes innkeeper succeeded him and served until the closing of the office in 1853. When the office was reopened later in 1853, John R. Jones,⁵⁸ the editor of an influential Democratic paper at Vincennes was installed as register. He died in office March 5, 1856.⁵⁹ His opponents charged that a deputy conducted all the business of the office and that Jones merely signed the necessary papers.⁶⁰

James J. Hayes, who made this charge, was successful in securing the appointment when the office reopened the second time in November, 1856.⁶¹ The office was again closed in 1858. It was reopened in 1859,⁶² the offices of register and receiver were combined, and George E. Greene⁶³ received the appointment. He was the editor of the Western Sun,⁶⁴ a Democratic newspaper published at Vincennes, and violently pro-southern in sympathies. One of his editorials, attacking the Federal soldiers who had shot citizens of Alexandria, Virginia after Colonel Ellsworth's death

⁵⁷General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Vincennes, Cash Receipt no. 35217; General Land Office, Commissions, Notices to Receivers of Appointments, V, 37.

⁵⁸Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Files, Vincennes, 1853.

⁵⁹General Land Office, Letters Received, no. D 32367.

⁶⁰Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Files, Vincennes, 1853.

⁶¹General Land Office, Bonds, Vincennes, no volume or page number. This manuscript is in the National Archives, Washington, D. C.

⁶²United States Statutes at Large, XI, 373.

⁶³Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Files, Vincennes, 1859.

⁶⁴Ibid.

in 1861, was brought to the attention of President Lincoln. Lincoln's secretary, John Hay, in an endorsement to the Secretary of the Interior written on the back of the letter states "a man who openly preaches treason to the government should not be allowed to eat its bread."⁶⁵ The office was closed December 20, 1861 and its records transferred to the Indianapolis Land Office.

Receiver Nathaniel Ewing was succeeded in 1820 by John C. S. Harrison,⁶⁶ a younger son of William Henry Harrison. Harrison served until 1829 when an examination of his books revealed a shortage of \$9,253.08 and he was removed. His father's prominence secured him some leniency. William Henry Harrison and J. C. Short, his bondsmen, influenced Congress to pass an act March 2, 1831, which allowed young Harrison eighteen years in which to pay his indebtedness.⁶⁷

Young Harrison was followed by Doctor John Dennis Wolverton who served one term. Wolverton applied for reappointment in 1833 before his commission expired,⁶⁸ but John P. Drake, who had been removed as register at Indianapolis in 1833 on charges of speculation and misuse of his office, was appointed instead. Drake, a personal friend and political supporter

⁶⁵ Ibid., Indianapolis, 1861.

⁶⁶ Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 16 Cong., 1 sess., 1819-1820, III, 186-188.

⁶⁷ American State Papers, Public Lands, VII, 1860, 560.

⁶⁸ Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 21 Cong., 1 sess., 1827-1830, IV, 37, 47, 55, 63, 80, 81; Ibid., 23 Cong., 1 sess., 1833-1834, IV, 372, 422, 432.

of Senator John Tipton,⁶⁹ was an early settler in Indianapolis and a very wealthy man. He had undoubtedly speculated in land warrants, or allowed speculation to take place in his office, and he had practiced "note shaving."⁷⁰ However, Drake was absolved from blame by a Congressional Committee in 1834,⁷¹ and he demanded and received of his friend Tipton a land office appointment as a vindication of his honor.⁷² His term of office expired in June, 1838.⁷³

John Law,⁷⁴ son-in-law of Nathaniel Ewing and a gifted lawyer, was chosen to succeed him. He was replaced by Thomas Scott when the Whigs came into power under William Henry Harrison in 1841. Scott had served in Harrison's campaign against the Indians at Tippecanoe and was a personal acquaintance of the new President.⁷⁵ In 1845 a Democrat again became President, and Samuel Wise⁷⁶ was appointed receiver. He was charged with

⁶⁹Senate Miscellaneous Papers: Report of Committee on Public Lands, 22B-A3, Drake and St. Clair; papers relative to nominations. These records are in the National Archives, Washington, D. C.

⁷⁰Ibid.

⁷¹Ibid.

⁷²Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 23 Cong., 1 sess., IV, 372, 422, 423.

⁷³Ibid., 423.

⁷⁴General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Vincennes, Cash Receipt no. 24314, July 2, 1838; Greene, History of Old Vincennes and Knox County, 1, 325; Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 25 Cong., 2 sess., 1837-1838, V, 120.

⁷⁵General Land Office, Notice to Receivers of Appointments, 1, 24-25; Military Bounty Land Warrants no. 92661, 120 acres, act of 1850. This manuscript is in the National Archives, Washington, D. C., Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Files, Vincennes, 1849.

⁷⁶General Land Office Commissions, Notices to Receivers of Appointments, 1, 240; Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 28 Cong., 2 sess., 1844-1845, VI, 373.

being a bitter Loco Foco man by Robert N. Carnan and others, and was not reappointed.

Robert N. Carnan, a lawyer by profession, and ex-speaker of the Indiana legislature was commissioned August 28, 1850⁷⁷ and served until the land office closed in 1853.⁷⁸ When the office was reopened the same year John C. Hobard, a New Yorker by birth, was appointed. Accused of being a "black republican,"⁷⁹ he was not reappointed in 1854. Actually he served very little of this appointment as the land office was officially closed part of the time. John H. E. Sprinkle was appointed in March, 1853, but served only until the office again closed in June, 1853.⁸⁰

The act reopening the office provided that the duties of register and receiver be combined to save unnecessary expense. Sprinkle again sought and received the appointment, but he resigned his commission in order to become Democratic candidate for County Clerk.⁸¹ George E. Greene,⁸² editor of the Vincennes Western Sun, a Democratic newspaper published at Vincennes, was then appointed and served until the discontinuance of the office in 1861.⁸³

⁷⁷Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Files, Vincennes, 1849; Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 31 Cong., 1 sess., 1849-1850, VIII, 223.

⁷⁸General Land Office, Record of Proclamations for Public Land Sales, III, 233; this manuscript is in the National Archives, Washington, D. C.; General Land Office, Miscellaneous Letters Received, D89211.

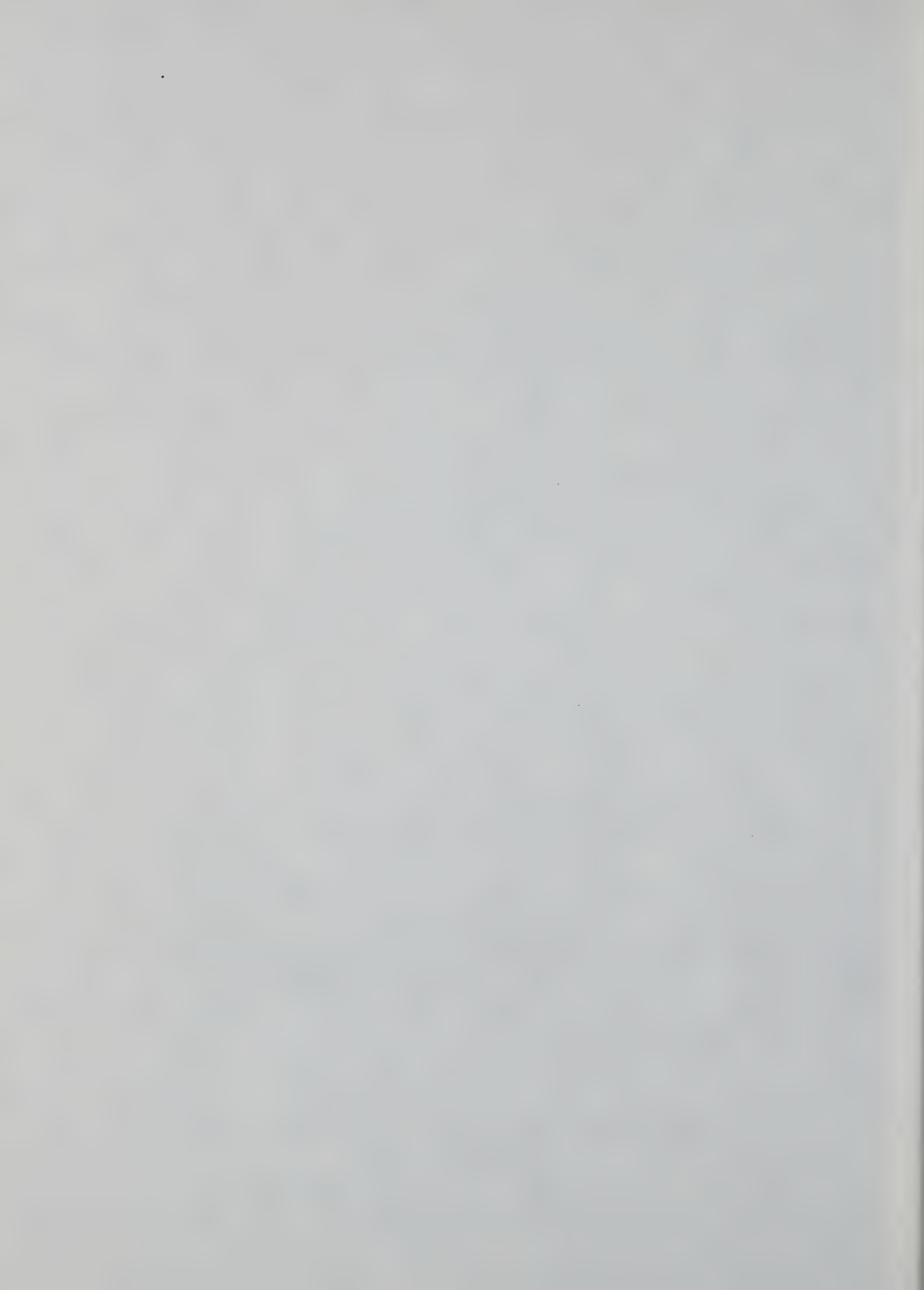
⁷⁹Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Files, Vincennes, 1857; Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 35 Cong., 1 sess., 1857-1858, I, 307.

⁸⁰Ibid., 1853.

⁸¹Ibid., 1859, George E. Greene.

⁸²Ibid.

⁸³General Land Office, Letters Sent to Registers and Receivers, Vol. 70, 124.



On the whole, the business of the land office at Vincennes was placed in the hands of able men. The institution of annual inspections of the land offices directed under an act passed in 1804,⁸⁴ and rigidly enforced beginning in 1820, checked the misuse of government funds but did not prevent the practice. There were a few dishonest men, but the great majority were faithful to their trust. The early jobs were profitable and attracted some very capable men. However, by 1845 the office was used as a reward for mediocre political hacks. Then the office became the focal point of intense partisan politics and was extensively used to further the interests of a party or political faction. For some men engaged in politics it became a stepping stone to national political success.

Gwathmey was succeeded as register at the Jeffersonville Land Office by William Lewis⁸⁵ who served two four-year terms. Mason T. Howell⁸⁶ was appointed March 21, 1838 and served until June 28, 1841.⁸⁷ He was removed and James Scott,⁸⁸ a close friend of William Henry Harrison, and a distant kinsman by marriage, was appointed when the Whigs came into power in 1841. Scott, who was an old man, had been a member of the Indiana Constitutional Convention in 1815 and a judge of the Indiana Supreme Court.⁸⁹ When Polk,

⁸⁴American State Papers, Public Lands, III, 512.

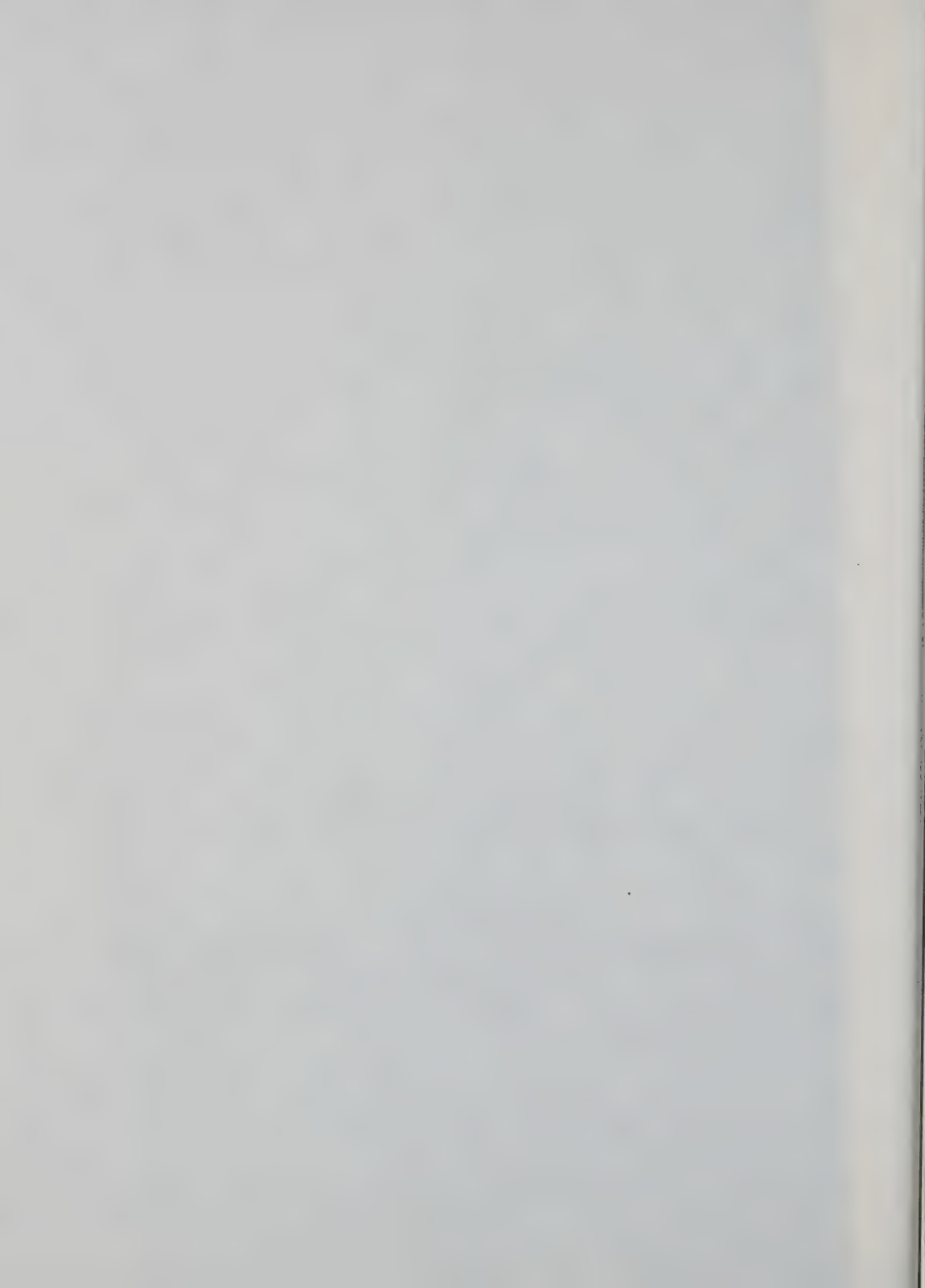
⁸⁵Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 21 Cong., 1 sess., IV, 50, 55, 63, 80, 81.

⁸⁶Ibid., 25 Cong., 2 sess., V, 88, 90, 93.

⁸⁷General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Jeffersonville, Cash Receipt no. 18333. This file is in the National Archives, Washington, D. C.

⁸⁸Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Files, Jeffersonville Land Office, 1849; General Land Office, Notices to Registers of Appointments, 1840-1844, I, 95.

⁸⁹General Land Office, Notices to Registers of Appointments, I, 96.



a Democrat, became President in 1845, Scott was replaced by⁹⁰ John F. Read, a Democrat and the son of a prominent Democrat.⁹¹ The Whigs came back into power in 1849 under General Taylor, and Judge Scott was reappointed.⁹² When the Whig party disintegrated in the election of 1853, James F. Read⁹³ was reinstated as register and remained until the office closed.

The land office was abolished January, 1855⁹⁴ and the remaining unsold lands were attached to the Indianapolis Land District, the land office records were removed to Indianapolis and Washington, D. C., and James Talbot, register at Indianapolis, concluded the affairs of the district. His name appears on the last four Register's Cash Receipts issued at the Jeffersonville Register's office.⁹⁵

Charles M. Taylor succeeded his father as receiver of public moneys at Jeffersonville on May 5, 1820;⁹⁶ and served a four-year term. He was removed as a result of a \$5,738.50 shortage in his accounts.⁹⁷

⁹⁰Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Files, Jeffersonville, 1849.

⁹¹Ibid., 1849 and 1853.

⁹²General Land Office, Notices to Receivers of Appointments, 1847-1849, I, 380.

⁹³Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Files, Jeffersonville, 1853, Notation on Read's Dossier.

⁹⁴General Land Office, Record of Proclamations for Public Land Sales, no. 528.

⁹⁵General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Jeffersonville, Register's Cash Receipt no. 25725-25728.

⁹⁶Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 16 Cong., 1 sess., III, 211.

⁹⁷American State Papers, Public Lands, VII, 560.



Andrew P. Hay was next commissioned receiver, April 19, 1824, and reappointed at the expiration of his commission.⁹⁸ A shortage of \$7,568.55⁹⁹ was found in his accounts and he was also removed, on April 15, 1829.¹⁰⁰

His tenure was followed by that of William Henry Hurst,¹⁰¹ the son of Henry Hurst, aide de camp to William Henry Harrison at the Battle of Tippecanoe. At the time of his appointment, Henry Hurst, Senior, was Clerk of the Court in Indiana.¹⁰² Young Hurst was also caught short \$4,250.00 in his accounts and removed. His father sacrificed most of his property to pay the indebtedness.¹⁰³

James G. Read (Reed),¹⁰⁴ a prominent Indiana Democratic politician, was then appointed and assumed the office April 1, 1831.¹⁰⁵ He opposed John Tipton for the senatorial nomination in 1832 and was the Democratic candidate for governor in 1833.¹⁰⁶ He discharged the duties of the office with credit and was reappointed. Douglass W. Sloane succeeded him in

⁹⁸Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 20 Cong., 1 sess., III, 370, 594.

⁹⁹American State Papers, Public Lands, VII, 560.

¹⁰⁰General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Jeffersonville, Register's Cash Receipt no. 1639.

¹⁰¹Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 21 Cong., 1 sess., IV, 37, 49, 53.

¹⁰²Senate Documents, Miscellaneous Papers, Public Lands Committee, 22 Cong., 2 sess., papers related to nomination.

¹⁰³Ibid.

¹⁰⁴Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 21 Cong., 2 sess., IV, 135, 162.

¹⁰⁵General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Jeffersonville, Register's Cash Receipt no. 2124.

¹⁰⁶Mellie A. Robertson and Dorothy Riker, (eds.), The John Tipton Papers, II, 732, (3 vols., Indianapolis, 1942). passim. These volumes are XLIV-XLVI of the Indiana Historical collections.

office March 22, 1839,¹⁰⁷ and died in the same year.¹⁰⁸ Woods Mabrey received a recess appointment, entered upon his duties October 17, 1839,¹⁰⁹ and received a permanent commission October 1, 1840.¹¹⁰ Since he was a Democrat, the Harrison party removed him July 14, 1841,¹¹¹ and appointed William G. Armstrong,¹¹² of Bethlehem, Clark County, Indiana, a Whig. The latter resigned in 1843 upon his election to the United States House of Representatives.

David G. Bright, the father of Senator Jesse D. Bright, received a temporary appointment October 17, 1843,¹¹³ a permanent commission March 12, 1844,¹¹⁴ and was reappointed March 6, 1848.¹¹⁵ He resigned April 1, 1849 because of failing health¹¹⁶ and died shortly after his resignation.

¹⁰⁷Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 25 Cong., 3 sess., V, 41, 182, 183.

¹⁰⁸General Land Office, Miscellaneous Letters Received, September 23, 1839.

¹⁰⁹General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Jeffersonville, Cash Receipt no. 18199.

¹¹⁰General Land Office, Letters to Registers and Receivers, XIV, 68.

¹¹¹General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Jeffersonville, Cash Receipt no. 18335.

¹¹²General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Jeffersonville, Cash Receipt no. 18336.

¹¹³General Land Office, Notice to Receivers of Appointments, 1840-1844, 251. This manuscript is in the General Land Office Records in the National Archives.

¹¹⁴General Land Office, Notice to Receivers of Appointments, 1840-1844, I, 71. This manuscript is in the General Land Office Records in the National Archives.

¹¹⁵ibid., 79.

¹¹⁶General Land Office, Registers and Receivers, Letters Received, March 8, 1849.

Doctor Samuel Morriweather, an old soldier who had served as a surgeon's mate in the army at Vincennes under President Taylor, was appointed May 8, 1849.¹¹⁷ Persons in opposition to his appointment stated that if appointed, the duties of the office would be performed by his son-in-law.¹¹⁸ He died in office February 24, 1853.¹¹⁹

A new receiver was not immediately appointed as there was some doubt as to the continuance of the office. Most of the lands in the district had been sold and receipts hardly equaled expenses. At first it was proposed to discontinue the Vincennes and Jeffersonville land offices and attach them to the Indianapolis District.¹²⁰ This was opposed by the Congressional delegation from these districts and that notice was rescinded April 20, 1853.¹²¹

The last person to hold the appointment as receiver at Jeffersonville was George W. Carr, who assumed the duties of the office April 4, 1853.¹²² He was a Democrat who had served as president of the second Constitutional

¹¹⁷General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Commissions, 1847-1849, Notices to Receivers of Appointments, I, 396; Military Bounty Land Warrant Papers, no. 1029, 160 acres, act of 1850.

¹¹⁸Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Files, Jeffersonville, 1850.

¹¹⁹General Land Office, Letters Received, B 39423.

¹²⁰General Land Office, Notice of Presidential Proclamations, no. 486, of February 5, 1853.

¹²¹Ibid., no. 490.

¹²²Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 32 Cong., 2 sess., 1852-1853, IX, 74; Jeffersonville Cash Receipt no. 23701.

Convention in 1850 and as speaker of the Indiana House of Representatives.¹²³

He held office only until January 1, 1855,¹²⁴ as the office was closed and the remaining unsold lands attached to the Indianapolis District.¹²⁵

Calvin W. Ruter, receiver at Indianapolis, supervised the closing of the office, even signing the last four cash receipts, no. 25726-25723 issued at Jeffersonville.¹²⁶

The poor record of land office personnel at Jeffersonville was largely due to the relatively small annual sales and the resultant poor remuneration. This frequently resulted in the appointment of unimportant politicians, many of them old men not physically qualified to hold office. The great number of deaths, defalcations and political removals caused a high percentage of turnover in personnel. Due to these factors the record of the personnel of the Jeffersonville office was the worst of any land office in Indiana.

¹²³ Office of the Secretary of Interior, Appointment Files, Jeffersonville, 1853.

¹²⁴ General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Jeffersonville, Cash Receipt no. 25725.

¹²⁵ General Land Office, Notice of Presidential Proclamations for Public Land Sales, no. 523, January 25, 1855.

¹²⁶ General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Jeffersonville, Cash Receipts no. 25726-25723.

CHAPTER III

THE TERRE HAUTE-CRAWFORDSVILLE LAND OFFICES

The lands in the central part of the state comprised some of the richest farming districts in Indiana. There were great stretches of gently rolling, treeless prairie located north of Indianapolis. Along the streams and waterways the land was heavily timbered and tall razor-sharp prairie grass, bullrushes, sedge, and cane grew on the prairies. Early settlers, reared in timbered regions, considered the prairie lands unfertile and at first refused to settle on them. The prairie sod was hard to plow and the plains lacked natural shelters against the weather. The absence of wood for fuel, buildings, and fences also discouraged early settlement. Sloughs formed in hollows and became filled with water, which not only were hard to drain but also caused fevers and ague.

These lands, however, were easily surveyed in comparison to wooded regions. The Surveyor General of the Northwest reported in 1819 that surveys had been completed for 761,600 acres in the Terre Haute land district and 769,000 in the Brookville district.¹

Congress had anticipated this report and on March 2, 1819,² established land offices at Terre Haute, located on the Wabash River in southwestern Indiana, and at Brookville, situated on the Whitewater River in southeastern Indiana. These land offices were not located within their land districts, and the measure provided that these places of sale be later removed to central locations in the districts.

¹American State Papers, Public Lands, III, 460.

²United States Statutes at Large, III, 521.

Acting under this law, the President caused the removal of the land office from Terre Haute to Crawfordsville in the spring of 1823,³ and the one at Brookville to Indianapolis in 1825,⁴ or shortly after Indianapolis became the capital of the state.

The Terre Haute District was bounded on the west by the Indiana state line; on the south the old Ten O'Clock Indian Treaty Line of 1809 separated this district from the Vincennes district; to the east the second tier of townships east of the second principal meridian separated it from the Brookville district; northward the lands extended to the Wabash River and included the newly ceded Indian territory in that region.⁵ Some Wea Indian lands which were ceded in 1818 but not actually surrendered until August 11, 1820 were added to the Terre Haute District in 1823.⁶

An act in 1828 provided that all land belonging to the government which lay west of a line dividing the first and second ranges east of the second principal meridian be attached to the Crawfordsville District.⁷ As the second principal meridian had not been surveyed through the Miami Reserve and other northern Indiana lands, Congress in the same measure directed the Surveyor General of the Northwest to extend the second principal meridian to the northern Indiana State boundary "provided that the

³General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Terre Haute, Cash Receipt no. 1459 and Crawfordsville, Cash Receipt no. 1.

⁴General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Brookville-Indianapolis, Cash Receipts no. 6522 and no. 6523.

⁵United States Statutes at Large, III, 521.

⁶Ibid., 783.

⁷Ibid., IV, 264.

assent of the Indians be obtained to the running and marking that portion of the meridian line which may lie within the lands not ceded to the United States."⁸

The LaPorte Land Office was established March 2, 1833,⁹ and it included some of the lands previously placed on sale at Crawfordsville. The southern boundary of the LaPorte Land Office was fixed as a line running east and west dividing townships 26 and 27. This act permanently established the boundaries of the Crawfordsville District.

The approximate boundary of the land district can be pictured by drawing a line southeast from Montezuma through Gosport to a point about ten miles east of Bloomington; north from that point to Logansport; west from Logansport to Raub, in Benton County, and extending south from Raub to Montezuma along the Indiana State Line. There were approximately 5,127 square miles, or 3,281,441.64 acres, in the public domain of this district.¹⁰

The land in the Crawfordsville District was secured by cessions from many Indian tribes. The Kickapoo, Delaware, Wea, Pottowatomi, and Miami Indians claimed all the land in central Indiana. A treaty concluded at St. Mary's and signed in October, 1818 extinguished all Indian claims (excepting certain Indian reservations) to all the land in Indiana which lay between the Vincennes, Jeffersonville and Cincinnati land districts on south and the Wabash River and the headwaters of St. Mary's on the north.¹¹ This cession, known in Indiana history as the "New Purchase,"

⁸Ibid.

⁹Ibid., IV, 653.

¹⁰Senate Executive Documents, 30 Cong., 2 sess., 1849-1850, II, (ser. no. 530), 243.

¹¹Royce, "Cessions of Land by Indian Tribes to the United States," 258.

added 5,367,520 acres to the public domain in Indiana.¹² Only the Miami Reserve and certain minor reservations remained in Indian hands.

The Miami and Pottawatomies in 1826¹³ ceded all their claim to land in Indiana lying north and west of the Wabash and Maumee Rivers, and other minor grants were made between 1826 and 1838. A portion of the Big Miami Reserve was ceded in 1838,¹⁴ and the remainder was secured by a treaty on November 28, 1840.¹⁵

On the heels of the Indians came the surveyor and the settler. By September 30, 1819, 1,530,000¹⁶ acres had been surveyed in the New Purchase, less than a year after the Indians had ceded the land to the government; 3,041,280¹⁷ acres were surveyed by 1820; and in 1823, 2,600,324 acres had been surveyed in the Terre Haute land district and 2,198,622¹⁸ acres in the Brookville District. At the end of this year most of the lands ceded by the Indians at the St. Mary's in 1818 were ready for the settler. Other surveys were run as quickly as the lands were ceded by the Indians, part of those lands in the Miami Reserve even being run before the cession took place.

A few of these measurements were later found erroneous and the Surveyor-General of the Northwest in 1846 employed Henry Jackman to re-survey township 2 north, range 9 east of the second principal meridian.

¹²American State Papers, Public Lands, III, 462.

¹³Ibid., 260; Royce, "Cessions of Land by Indian Tribes to the United States,"

¹⁴Ibid., 261.

¹⁵Ibid., 262.

¹⁶American State Papers, Public Lands, III, 461.

¹⁷Ibid., 533.

¹⁸Ibid., IV, 59.

Plats in the Surveyer General's office showed two sets of parallel section lines running through the township east and west about 20 rods apart. He re-examined the township monuments and found that the old section and quarter section corners were on two sets of lines so that a connecting line would have to be run in a zigzag manner. Jackman reported these facts and advised that it would be impracticable to change the existing surveys in a manner satisfactory to the persons concerned. As the land was already sold, he recommended that the purchasers of the land in dispute be left to agree on a compromise line between themselves.¹⁹

Most of the surveys were run at the rate of \$3.00 per mile, and the surveyors were awarded contracts of from seven to twelve townships at a time. Some of those awarded contracts in the Brookville and Terre Haute districts were:

	Number of Townships	Price
Survey John Hendricks	8	\$ 1,450.00
Allan Wright	7	1,260.00
John Milroy	7	1,260.00
Thomas Brown	9	1,450.00
Andrew Wallace	7	1,260.00
B. F. Morris	12	1,260.00
W. B. Laughlin	7	1,260.00
Basil Bently	7	1,260.00
John Collet	9	1,650.00
William Folk		2,000.00

William Harris, John McDonald, and J. A. T. Allan ran surveys north of the correction line and were apparently the first to measure some of the lands in the Kankakee swamps, an area that later became a part of the Fort

¹⁹Executive Documents, 29 Cong., 2 sess., 1846-1847, 11, no. 2 (ser. no. 498), 40.

Wayne and Winamac land districts.²⁰

Abner Van Ness probably ran the last surveys in Indiana in 1848. He was awarded a contract on June 6, 1848,²¹ for all unmeasured islands in the Tippecanoe and other rivers in the state of Indiana at the rate of \$5.00 per mile.

All surveys in Indiana were completed by the end of 1848, and the maps, plats, and field notes were transferred to the state of Indiana in 1849, as authorized by the Acts of June 12, 1840 and March 3, 1845.²²

As soon as survey returns were posted, the President proclaimed the lands for sale at public auction by the register and receiver of the land district. The land officers, after 1820, were appointed by Congress for a term of four years. They could be removed by the President at any time.

Williamson Dunn was appointed register of the new Terre Haute Land Office May 5, 1820;²³ and Ambrose Whitlock was appointed receiver. Dunn was born in Kentucky December 25, 1781, moved to Indiana Territory in 1809, and settled near Hanover, Indiana. Elected judge of the county court of common pleas in 1811, during the War of 1812 he entered the army and as captain of rangers relieved Captain Zachary Taylor (later President of the United States) at Fort Harrison, Terre Haute, in 1813. He was

²⁰General Land Office, Letters Received from the Surveyor General of the Northwest Territory, V, Tiffin to Moigs, October 25, 1819.

²¹Senate Documents, 31 Cong., 2 sess., 1849-1850, II, no. 2, (ser. no. 590), 286.

²²Executive Documents, 31 Cong., 2 sess., 1850-1851, II, no. 2, (ser. no. 508), 67.

²³Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 16 Cong., 1 sess., 1819-1820, II, 211, 376.

greatly interested in the colleges of Indiana and made several donations of land to Wabash and Hanover Colleges. He died November 11, 1854.²⁴

Dunn was removed by President Jackson, and Samuel Milroy²⁵ was appointed in his place. He was a good friend of Senator Tipton's and, like him, interested in land speculation. Milroy was indirectly implicated in the receivers' embezzlement of Government money at the land office in Crawfordsville, and was not reappointed when his term expired in 1833.

Charles Tyler,²⁶ a personal friend of Andrew Jackson, was appointed register to succeed Milroy. He was not a resident of Indiana, but attempts made to defeat confirmation of his appointment failed. Tyler served from October 21, 1833 to June 11, 1838.²⁷

Ezekiel McConnell became register on June 25, 1838 and served until June 29, 1841.²⁸ William T. Noel, of Rockville, a Whig, was then appointed register July 8, 1841,²⁹ but his term was cut short by President Harrison's death. He was removed September 4, 1843,³⁰ to make place for John W. Rush, of Newport, Indiana. Rush received a recess appointment, effective October

²⁴William Wesley Woolen, Biographical and Historical Sketches of Early Indiana, (Indianapolis, 1883), 400-406.

²⁵Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 21 Cong., 1 sess., 17, 50-51.

²⁶Ibid., 405, 406, 420, 423.

²⁷General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Crawfordsville, Cash Receipt no. 20314 and no. 32653.

²⁸Ibid., no. 32654 and no. 33856.

²⁹General Land Office, Commissions, Notice to Receivers of Appointments.

³⁰General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Crawfordsville, Cash Receipt no. 33965.

30, 1843,³¹ and a permanent appointment March 8, 1844.³² He was reappointed in 1846 and removed June 21, 1849, as it was charged that he was the leader of the "Loco Pocos"³³ in that section of Indiana.

John Ewing,³⁴ a former representative in Congress, and a member of a family powerful in political circles in Indiana, was given a recess appointment as register. However, his nomination was rejected by the Senate and William S. Galey, an early settler of Crawfordsville, and a Whig, was appointed register October 3, 1850 and served until the office closed March 26, 1853.³⁵

The first receiver of public monies at the Terre Haute-Crawfordsville Land Office was Ambrose Whitlock.³⁶ He was born in Virginia about 1770, joined the army and served under Harmar and Wayne in the Indian campaigns in Ohio and northern Indiana. Whitlock helped build Fort Wayne and was afterwards stationed at Fort Massac, Illinois. Later he assisted in the construction of a military road from Tennessee to Louisiana through the Cherokee and Choctaw Indian countries. He became deputy paymaster in 1810, district paymaster in 1811, finally resigning from the

³¹General Land Office, Commissions, Notice to Receivers of Appointment, I, 65.

³²General Land Office, Commissions, Notice to Registers of Appointment, I, 244.

³³General Land Office, Commissions, Notice to Receivers of Appointment, I, 65. Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Files, Crawfordsville, 1850 (see Galey's Application).

³⁴General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Crawfordsville, Cash Receipt no. 35753.

³⁵General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Crawfordsville, Cash Receipt no. 36211.

³⁶Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 16 Cong., 1 sess., III, 209.

army about 1815 with the equivalent rank of major.³⁷ Zachary Taylor and William H. Crawford, Secretary of the Treasury, were personal friends and his appointment was the result of Crawfords's influence.

In 1823 Whitlock and his associates platted a town site in what is now Montgomery County, and named it Crawfordsville³⁸ in honor of Secretary Crawford. The new town was located on one of the principal Indian trails that crossed Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. Whitlock was instrumental in having the land office at Terre Haute removed to Crawfordsville between May 21 and June 5, 1823.³⁹ It is said that "The land office stood in the center of a small group of cabins. It too was a long building mortised and tenoned, and contained a primitive desk, and a few slab benches, with an iron chest to hold the silver and gold paid in for land."⁴⁰ At that time Crawfordsville was the only town between Fort Wayne and Terre Haute.⁴¹

Whitlock served two terms as receiver and was then removed by Andrew Jackson September 6, 1829.⁴² He was nominated and confirmed as receiver in 1841,⁴³ but declined the nomination. His death took place

³⁷ Francis B. Heitman, Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army, (2 vols., Washington, D. C., 1903), I, 1030, Veterans Bureau, widows Pension File, Papers of Elizabeth Jones Whitlock.

³⁸ A. W. Bowen and Co., (pub.), History of Montgomery County, (20 vols., Indianapolis, 1913), I, 457-458.

³⁹ Ibid.; General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Terre Haute, Cash Receipt no. 1459 and Crawfordsville, Cash Receipt no. 1.

⁴⁰ A. W. Bowen and Co., History of Montgomery County, I, 574-575.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Crawfordsville, Cash Receipt no. 3924; Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 21 Cong., 1 sess., IV, 50, 81.

⁴³ General Land Office, Commissions, Notice to Receivers of Appointment, I, 43.

in 1863, at Crawfordsville, at the ripe old age of 93 years.

Doctor Isarel Canby, who had served as state senator from Jefferson and Jennings counties in the 1826-1827 and 1827-1828 sessions and was an unsuccessful candidate for governor in 1828,⁴⁴ was appointed to succeed Whitlock as receiver.⁴⁵ Canby, a personal friend of Senator Tipton, received his recommendation for the appointment. He was a land speculator and after entering office used government money in his speculations and in note shaving. An inspection of his books in 1832 revealed a shortage of \$52,312.04, which caused his removal. His speculations involved Senator Tipton, Governor Hendricks, and other prominent political figures in Indiana. All of Canby's property, even his personal effects, were seized by the government and sold, though his sureties were not discharged of the indebtedness incurred through him until the late 1850's.⁴⁶

James T. Pollock, a political friend of Senator Tipton and of Governor Hendricks, was appointed receiver in 1833 to succeed Canby.⁴⁷ Pollock was a resident of Rising Sun, Dearborn County, and had represented that county in the Indiana House from 1827-1831.⁴⁸ He applied for the job of receiver at Fort Wayne,⁴⁹ but since that position had been promised to

⁴⁴Robertson and Riker, Tipton Papers, II, 11, footnote 14.

⁴⁵Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 21 Cong., 1 sess., IV, 50, 81.

⁴⁶Records of the Solicitor of the Treasury, Transcript Suits, United States vs. Israel Canby; Treasury Department, Letters Received from United States Attorneys, Clerks and Marshalls.

⁴⁷Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 22 Cong., 2 sess., IV, 296.

⁴⁸Robertson and Riker, Tipton Papers, II, 451, footnote 13.

⁴⁹Ibid., II, 450.

John Spencer, Pollock was given the receivership at Crawfordsville. He completed Canby's unexpired term, was reappointed and served until February 24, 1838.⁵⁰

Maras Crume, a native of Kentucky and a resident of Fayette County, Indiana, succeeded Pollock May 26, 1838 and held office until 1841. He too was a political friend of Senator Tipton and had served several years in the Indiana House of Representatives, from 1828 to 1838.⁵¹

Crume was removed and John Beard (Baird) was given a recess appointment as receiver in 1841⁵² and a permanent commission in July, 1841.⁵³ He was a Whig, a resident of Crawfordsville since 1823, and had served 21 years in the Indiana State Legislature.⁵⁴ His service ended at the expiration of his commission, July 1, 1845.⁵⁵

Philip E. Engle, a Democrat, assumed the duties of the office July 19, 1845, and served until his death, about October 21, 1847.⁵⁶ He was succeeded by Bennett W. Engle, the editor of a Democratic newspaper

⁵⁰Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 25 Cong., 2 sess., IV, 585; General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Crawfordsville, Cash Receipt no. 32808.

⁵¹Robertson and Riker, John Tipton Papers, II, 662, note 10; General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Crawfordsville, Cash Receipt no. 32809.

⁵²General Land Office, Commissions, Notice to Receivers of Appointment, I, 75.

⁵³Ibid.

⁵⁴Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Papers, Crawfordsville, 1849.

⁵⁵General Land Office, Commissions, Notice to Receivers of Appointment, I, 75.

⁵⁶General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Crawfordsville, Cash Certificates no. 35163 and 35524; Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 30 Cong., 1 sess., 1847-1848, VII, 124.

which supported Case against General Taylor in the presidential campaign of 1848-1849. Ambrose Whitlock charged that Engle brought the patronage of the Government into conflict with the freedom of the elective franchise⁵⁷ and Engle was removed June 2, 1849.⁵⁸ John Beard was reappointed receiver to succeed him and served until the closing of the office March 26, 1853.⁵⁹

Most of the appointees at the Crawfordsville Land Office were prominent men with records of long political service in the state. There were few deaths of land office personnel; and the majority of the officers served one or more full terms which tended to stabilize administrative policies at the office. Canby was apparently the only officer removed for the misuse of government funds, and Crawfordsville ranked as one of the best managed land offices in the state.

The land officers opened public land sales at the Terre Haute Land Office September 4, 1820⁶⁰ for two weeks. The land district contained approximately 3,281,411.64⁶¹ acres of land and over 500,000⁶² acres of

⁵⁷Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Files, Crawfordsville, 1849, see John Beard.

⁵⁸General Land Office, Commissions, Notice to Receivers of Appointments, I, 483.

⁵⁹General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Crawfordsville, Cash Receipt no. 39524.

⁶⁰General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Terre Haute, Cash Receipt no. 1.

⁶¹Senate Documents, 30 Cong., 2 sess., 1848-1849, II, no. 2, (ser. no. 530), 243.

⁶²American State Papers, Public Lands, V, 547.

this were exposed to sale during the first public auction.

The first sale at the office was made to Philip Hodges,⁶³ of Monroe County, Indiana, who paid \$94.57 for 75.66 acres. Thirty-four entries were made the first day, the largest one for 80 acres. During the month of September, 1820, 13,291.40 acres were sold and \$17,642.32⁶⁴ received from sales.⁶⁵ By 1825 a total of 2,600,304 acres had been surveyed and 274,194.95 acres had been sold in the district.⁶⁶ Lands exposed to public sale often remained unsold for years. To illustrate this, William Dunn and Ambrose Whitlock reported on September 19, 1828,⁶⁷ the status of lands in the Crawfordsville district for June 30, 1828, as follows:

<u>Date Lands Placed on Sale</u>	<u>Acres Unsold</u>	<u>Length of Time on Market</u>
September, 1820	555,761.03	7 years, 9 months
July, 1822	350,105.97	5 years, 11 months
November, 1822	271,682.03	5 years, 7 months
November and December, 1824	630,531.66	3 years, 6 months
October, 1827	<u>144,179.44</u>	8 months
Total Acres	1,952,260.13	
Lands Reserved for Schools	77,166.02 Acres:	
Lands Reserved for Indians	12,160.00 Acres.	

In 1825 over \$108,000.00 was received from land sales and in 1830 \$366,738.92 was collected and 291,387.89 acres were sold. Between 1830 and 1835 revenues of the office averaged over \$200,000.00 annually. The land boom reached its greatest height in 1835 when \$449,732.11 was received

⁶³General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Terre Haute, Cash Receipt no. 1.

⁶⁴General Land Office, Crawfordsville, Abstract of Sales, I.

⁶⁵American State Papers, Public Lands, VI, 197.

⁶⁶Senate Documents, 19 Cong., 1 sess., 1825-1826, II, no. 20 (ser. no. 126), 7.

⁶⁷American State Papers, Public Lands, V, 547.

from the sale of 359,627.66⁶⁸ acres of land at the Crawfordsville Land Office.

The issuance of the Specie Circular checked speculation and caused a sharp decline in land sales at Crawfordsville as well as at every other land office in Indiana. Annual sales in 1837 totaled 79,790.46 acres, with cash receipts of \$99,745.02; in 1838 sales dropped to 24,606.22 acres, and purchase money amounted to \$30,811.73.⁶⁹ Land had been exposed to public sale in the years 1820, 1822, 1824, 1827, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1834, and finally in 1838. By the last year, 1838, there was little choice acreage remaining in the district. Sales declined steadily after 1840, and between 1840 and 1853 annual receipts amounting to over \$30,000.00 were collected only in 1846.

From the opening of the office until 1845, 3,307,669.18 acres of land were sold and the net proceeds amounted to \$3,201,493.21. Of this amount, \$155,832.59 was paid by means of military bounty land scrip and \$4,588.38 by forfeited land stock.⁷⁰

The Commissioner of the General Land Office reported that up to January 1, 1849, the disposition of public land in the Crawfordsville Land District was as follows:⁷¹

⁶⁸ See Table of Sales, Crawfordsville, in the Appendix.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ Ibid.; American State Papers, Public Lands, VII, 326, 327.

⁷¹ Senate Documents, 30 Cong., 2 sess., 1848-1849, II, no. 2 (ser. no. 530), 243.



Total Acreage in the public domain	3,281,411.64 Acres
Proclaimed for sale	3,281,411.64 Acres
Acres sold	2,636,215.66 Acres
Proceeds of sales	\$3,373,611.61
Acres reserved for common school lands	99,856.98 Acres
Lands selected for roads and canals	31,177.21 Acres
Grants to individuals	320 Acres
Indian Reserves	10,833.31 Acres
Military Bounty Land Warrants, Mexican War	45,720.00 Acres
Swamp lands	18,572.00 Acres
Lands unappropriated and unsold	402,023.48 Acres

Crawfordsville, in 1849, ranked third among the Indiana land districts in the total of unsold acreage. The Winamac District, containing the huge Kankakee swamp lands, was first, with 1,648,594 acres; Jeffersonville was second, with 418,125 acres; and Crawfordsville was third with 402,023 acres. The Crawfordsville District also ranked third in total receipts from land sales; Fort Wayne leading in that department with \$3,820,414.52; Jeffersonville second, with \$3,459,931.92; and Crawfordsville next with \$3,373,511.61.⁷²

Proceeds of land sales between 1849 and 1853 averaged just over \$10,000.00⁷³ annually. Because of this decline the land office was ordered closed April 7, 1853,⁷⁴ and the unsold lands attached to the Indianapolis

⁷²Ibid.

⁷³See Table of Sales, Crawfordsville, in the Appendix.

⁷⁴Record of Proclamation of Public Land Sales, III, 240, no. 488 3/4.

Land District. The land office was officially discontinued May 23,
1853.⁷⁵

CHAPTER IV

THE BROCKVILLE-INDIANAPOLIS LAND OFFICES

The act of March 3, 1819 established a land office at Terre Haute and also provided for one at Brockville,¹ a small town located along the valley between the east and west forks of the Whitewater River in the historic "Gore" formed as a result of the Greenville treaty. Brockville was platted in 1803 and during the War of 1812 it was garrisoned by United States troops; and in 1820 a company of United States troops was still stationed there.²

The Brockville Land District contained all the territory to which Indian title had been extinguished by the treaties concluded at St. Mary's in 1818 "lying east of the range line separating the first and second ranges east of the second principal meridian extending north to the present Indian boundary, and north of the line to be run separating the ninth and tenth tiers of townships north of the base line."³ The northern boundary of the Indian cession was vaguely stated, but essentially it extended to the headwaters of the Wabash and St. Mary's Rivers.⁴

A new land office was established at Fort Wayne by an act passed in 1822, and the southern boundary of that district became the northern boundary of the Indianapolis District. This measure directed that the boundary be a line drawn east and west separating the tiers of townships

¹United States Statutes at Large, III, 521.

²August J. Reifel, History of Franklin County, Indiana (Indianapolis, 1915), 193.

³United States Statutes at Large, III, 521.

⁴Royce, Indian Land Cessions in Indiana, 258, 259.

20 and 21.⁵

The Indianapolis boundary was again changed in 1846⁶ by adding all lands lying south of a line dividing the twenty-third and twenty-fourth tiers of townships. This was the last change made in the district's boundaries until other land offices in Indiana were closed and the unsold lands attached to the Indianapolis District.

The approximate boundaries of the Indianapolis District after 1846 may be described by a line drawn eastward from Burlington through Kokomo to the Ohio state line and south along the state line to a point opposite Fort Recovery, Ohio, west to Portland, Indiana, southwest to Millhousen, Decatur County, west to a point about four miles east of Bloomington, then north from that point to Burlington.

The sale of public land was regarded not primarily as a matter of public service, but rather as a means of raising revenue to extinguish the public debt. Thus, when a land office ceased to be profitable or became inconveniently located, it was the established practice of the General Land Office, after 1840, to abolish land districts and remove land offices to more desirable locations. The authority for this policy was contained in two acts of Congress, one enacted June 17, 1840,⁷ and the other March 3, 1853.⁸

⁵United States Statutes at Large, III, 701.

⁶Ibid., IX, 75.

⁷Ibid., V, 364.

⁸Ibid., X, 194.

The Act of 1840 directed the President to close a land office and attach the remaining land to a centrally located office in the state "when the unsold acreage in the land district became less than one hundred thousand acres."⁹ The Act of 1853 also directed the President to close a land office when the cost of collecting land revenues amounted to one-third of the gross receipts.¹⁰

As early as 1825 the Commissioner of the General Land Office recommended that the number of land offices in the state be limited to one, to be located at the state capital.¹¹ By 1840 there were less than 100,000 acres of unsold land in the Indianapolis District, and it was thought that the office would be closed. However, Secretary of the Interior Thomas Ewing refused to close the office because "Indianapolis is the seat of government of the state--a point at which it will be desirable, ultimately, to close the land business of that state--I have deemed it proper to continue the land office at that place."¹²

The President, under the authority of either the acts of 1840 or of 1853, closed the Fort Wayne Land Office February 9, 1852;¹³ the Crawfordsville office April 7, 1853;¹⁴ and the Jeffersonville office January 25,

⁹Ibid., V, 364.

¹⁰Ibid., X, 194.

¹¹Senate Documents, 21 Cong., 1 sess., 1829-1830, I (ser. no. 192), 315, 316.

¹²Senate Executive Documents, 31 Cong., 1 sess., 1849-1850, XIII, no. 2 (ser. no. 550), I, 36.

¹³General Land Office, Miscellaneous letters received, B17386.

¹⁴Record of Proclamation of Public Land Sales, IV, 177, no. 488 3/4.

1855,¹⁵ and attached all unsold land to the Indianapolis District. The Vincennes Land Office, which had been opened and closed several times, was reopened for three years by the act of December 21, 1853.¹⁶ It functioned until December 21, 1861, and then its unsold land was also consolidated with the Indianapolis District.

There were few public lands unsold in Indiana by 1861. The Indianapolis Land Office was maintained at that time primarily as a means of information for persons owning or claiming land, or by assessors, sheriffs, surveyors, and others who wished to establish lines and correct title descriptions. The office was closed September 30, 1876,¹⁷ and its records and functions transferred to the General Land Office, Washington, D. C.

Some of the lands in the Brookville-Indianapolis District were placed on sale by the Government in 1820 under the supervision of land officers Robert Hanna and Lazarus Noble, register and receiver, respectively, of the new land office located at Brookville.¹⁸ Hanna was a member of a pioneer Indiana family which had settled near Brookville in territorial days. He had served as a member of the Indiana Constitutional Convention¹⁹ and was later appointed United States Senator (in 1831) to finish the term of James Noble, whose death in that year left the office

¹⁵General Land Office Notice, 528.

¹⁶General Land Office, Record of Proclamation of Public Land Sales, IV, 177.

¹⁷United States Statutes at Large, XLX, 121.

¹⁸Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 16 Cong., 1 sess., 1819-1820, III, 211.

¹⁹Esarey, History of Indiana, I, 248.

vacant.²⁰ Hanna served two terms as register, was appointed to a third term in 1828, but was removed by Andrew Jackson August 29, 1829,²¹ who commissioned Arthur St. Clair²² register.

St. Clair, the grandson of the first Territorial Governor of the Northwest, Arthur St. Clair, was a young man of pleasing personality but with little business sense. While in office he was imposed upon by land speculators and even by his own clerk. Serious charges were brought against both St. Clair and James P. Drake, the Indianapolis register, and they were removed in November, 1833.²³

James B. Gardiner, who conducted the investigation of the charges, reported that the land office was kept in the second story of a building owned by Alfred Harrison. Harrison had a store on the first floor and in addition, one Nichols McCarty occupied a room on the ground floor for the purpose of exchanging military bounty land scrip with the purchasers of public lands.

The Commissioner of the General Land Office issued a circular in May, 1833 forbidding speculation in scrip by land office personnel which St. Clair interpreted as applying to land officers but not to clerks. The investigation showed that he never personally profited by this speculation, although James P. Drake, the receiver, had actively participated in these transactions.²⁴

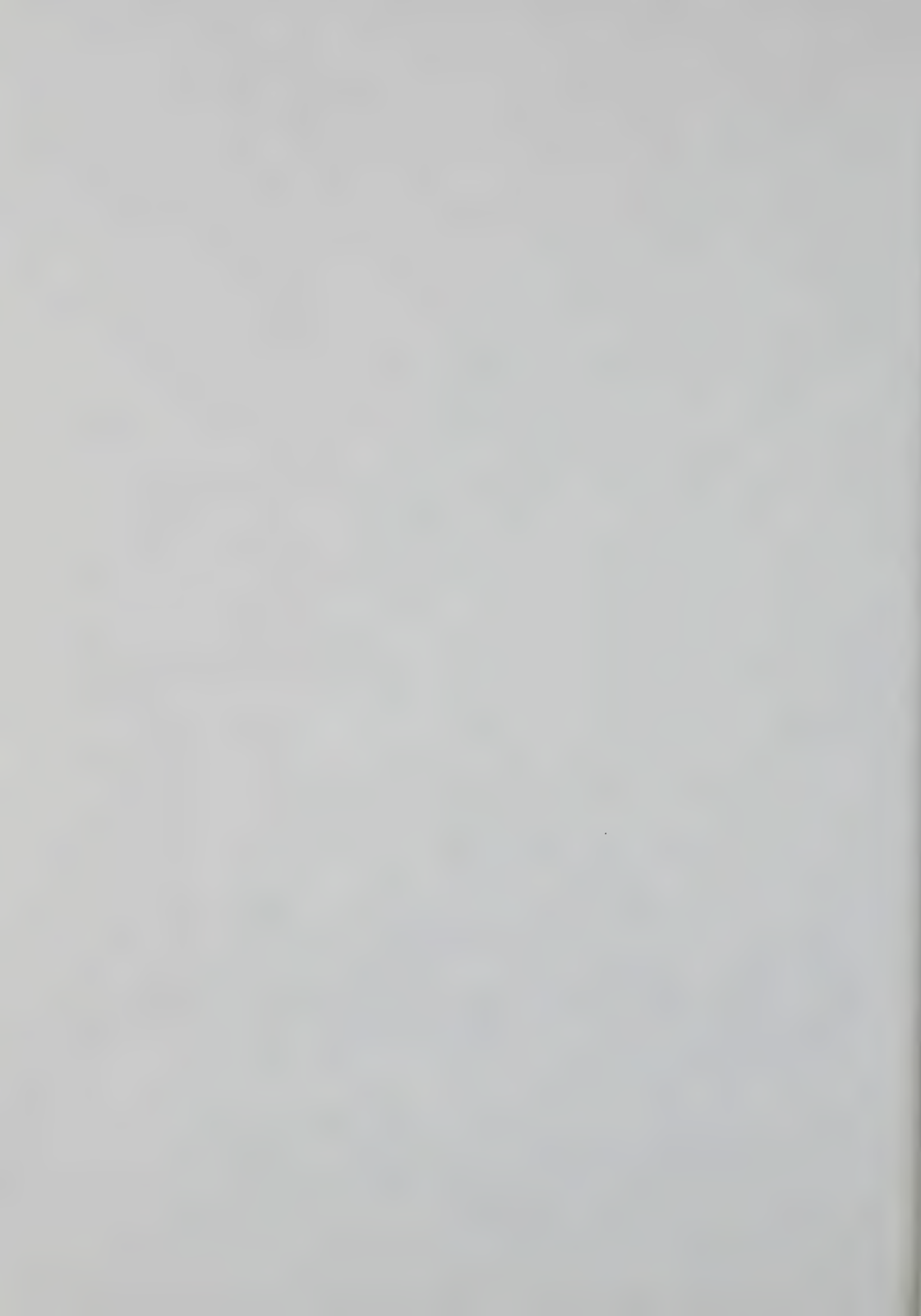
²⁰Robertson and Riker, John Tinton Papers, II, 446, footnote 9.

²¹General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Indianapolis, Cash Receipts nos. 10122 and 10123.

²²Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 20 Cong., 2 sess., IV, 80, 81.

²³Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 21 Cong., 2 sess., IV, 50, 81.

²⁴Senate Miscellaneous Papers relating to nominations, 23B-A3, St. Clair and Drake.



After both men were removed in 1833, they immediately appealed to Senator Tipton, their political friend and ally, for help. He succeeded in having them cleared by a United States Senate investigation in 1834.²⁵

While the investigation was in progress, William B. Slaughter, probably distantly related to Tipton, was appointed, on November 28, 1833,²⁶ and remained until July 8, 1834.²⁷ As soon as St. Clair was cleared of the charges, Slaughter faded out of the picture and St. Clair was reappointed register at Indianapolis²⁸ and served until his resignation February 28, 1838.²⁹

David V. Culley succeeded him and took office March 28, 1838,³⁰ remaining until February 2, 1846. He had been a member of the Indiana legislature and Democratic candidate for Lieutenant-Governor in 1833-1834.³¹

Nathaniel Bolton, editor and publisher of a Democratic newspaper at Indianapolis, was commissioned register in 1846.³² He became involved in the dispute over General Taylor's report of the action of Indiana troops in the Mexican War and was removed when Taylor assumed the Presidency.

Bolton was followed by William H. L. Noble, a Whig, and the only

²⁵Ibid.

²⁶General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Indianapolis, Cash Receipt no. 18542.

²⁷Ibid., no. 20304.

²⁸Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 23 Cong., 1 sess., IV, 404, 428.

²⁹Ibid., 25 Cong., 2 sess., V, 77, 82; General Land Office Land Entry Papers, Indianapolis, Cash Receipt no. 30529 and no. 30530.

³⁰Ibid.

³¹Robertson and Liker, John Tipton Papers, II, 750, 855, footnote 33; Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 27 Cong., 2 sess., VI, 41; Indianapolis, Cash Receipt no. 31385.

³²Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 29 Cong., 1 sess., VII, 49, 51.

son of Lazarus Noble, former receiver at Brookville.³³ His mother was a daughter of Sam C. Vance, the first register of the Fort Wayne Land Office, and his uncle, James Noble, had served as United States Senator. Another uncle, Noah Noble, was a former governor of Indiana. Young Noble was graduated from Wabash College in 1847 and at the time of his appointment was deputy clerk of the Wayne County Circuit and Probate Courts.³⁴ He entered office November 10, 1849 and served until April 30, 1853.³⁵

He was succeeded in office by a Democrat, James Talbot, an elderly man and a former resident of Crawfordsville. Talbot was the father-in-law of S. T. Drum, a nephew of Representative John Pettit.³⁶ Under Talbot's direction the land offices at Crawfordsville and Fort Wayne were discontinued. He was removed because it was charged "that Talbot has not been a resident of the district for one day since his appointment. Now near four years, the duties of which he has always had performed by our State Treasurer, while he attended to his other business at his residence in Jeffersonville, Clark County."³⁷

George McQuat, also a Democrat, was commissioned register May 3, 1858,³⁸ and remained in office until July 1, 1861. McQuat was an

³³Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Files, Indianapolis, 1849.

³⁴Ibid.

³⁵General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Indianapolis, Cash Receipt no. 34256.

³⁶Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Files, Indianapolis, 1853.

³⁷Ibid., 1857, Petition for the removal of Talbot addressed to Representative James M. Vance, dated February 1, 1857.

³⁸General Land Office, Commissions, Notice to Receivers of Appointment, May 3, 1858.

Indianapolis business man and a descendant of the Scotch clan of MacGregors. There was little land sold at the office during his administration and that of his successor, Edmond Browning.

Browning was an elderly man, an old resident of the State and a former Democrat, but at the time of his appointment a Republican. He continued to administer the small affairs of the office until it closed in 1876.³⁹

Lazarus Noble was appointed the first receiver of the Brookville Land Office May 5, 1820.⁴⁰ He was the brother of Senator James Noble and also a brother of Noah Noble who later became Governor of Indiana. Re-appointed in 1824, he died during the removal of the land office from Brookville to Indianapolis.⁴¹ Upon his death his accounts were audited and a shortage of \$3,983.11 discovered.⁴² He was succeeded by his brother, Noah Noble, later Governor of Indiana, who served until removed by Jackson September 15, 1829.⁴³

James P. Drake was given a recess appointment as receiver at Indianapolis and was permanently commissioned March 25, 1830.⁴⁴ He was a

³⁹General Land Office, Letters Received, Brownings Receipt for Inventory of Office Furnishings, date July 1, 1861; Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Files, Indianapolis, 1858; Ibid., 1861, Notation on Browning's Dossier of Appointmentdate; United States Statutes at Large, XIX, (20 vols.) part 1, 121.

⁴⁰Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 16 Cong., 1 sess., III, 209-211.

⁴¹Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Papers, Indianapolis, 1849, William H. L. Noble.

⁴²Senate Executive Documents, 25 Cong., 2 sess., 1837-1838, III, (ser. no. 325), 34.

⁴³General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Indianapolis, Cash Receipt no. 6650 and no. 10161.

⁴⁴Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 21 Cong., 1 sess., IV, 50, 81.

very good businessman, a political power in Indiana, and a firm friend and supporter of Senator Tipton. Drake's business activities led him into land and scrip speculation and note shaving. He was charged with misconduct in office and, along with St. Clair, removed. Cleared of these charges in 1834 by a Senate committee of investigation,⁴⁵ Senator Tipton secured for him an appointment as receiver at the Vincennes Land Office the same year.⁴⁶ He served as colonel of the first Indiana regiment in the Mexican War and afterward returned to Indiana and engaged in business and politics. He later moved to Madison, Alabama and was in residence there when he died, August 12, 1876.⁴⁷

Upon Drake's removal as receiver of the Indianapolis Land Office, Abner McCarty held the office from November 11, 1833⁴⁸ until his resignation July 18, 1836. McCarty, a member of a family politically opposed to Tipton, was partly responsible for the charges preferred against St. Clair and Drake. McCarty's appointment was an attempt at appeasement on Tipton's part, but it failed. An inspection of McCarty's books revealed a shortage of \$2,461.14 and suit was ordered against him by the Federal Government on February 2, 1837.⁴⁹ He resigned before he could be removed.

⁴⁵Senate Miscellaneous Papers relating to Nominations, 23B-A3, St. Clair and Drake.

⁴⁶General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Vincennes, Cash Receipt no. 5957.

⁴⁷Veterans Administration, Widows Pension, File no. 1249, application of Priscilla Holmes Drake.

⁴⁸Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 23 Cong., 1 sess., IV, 333, 410; General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Indianapolis, Cash Receipt no. 16322.

⁴⁹Senate Executive Documents, 25 Cong., 2 sess., 1837-1838, V, no. 111 (ser. no. 325), 34.

Seton (or Seaton) W. Norris was appointed receiver of the land office in McCarty's place June 29, 1836,⁵⁰ and remained in office until January 13, 1849. He was a friend of Tipton and a supporter of General Harrison.

James P. Drake succeeded Norris and was given a recess appointment⁵¹ by the Democrats before the Presidential election of 1848. Drake's denunciation of General Lane's conduct at the Battle of Buena Vista,⁵² Mexico, led to his removal as soon as Taylor became President. Zenas Lake was then appointed receiver on January 13, 1849,⁵³ but died before entering upon his official duties.

John W. Thompson, a Whig, and a resident of Indianapolis, held the office from April 7, 1849⁵⁴ through May, 1853.⁵⁵ Thompson was born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania about 1785 and settled in Clark County, Indiana in 1809. He was a lieutenant of dragoons at the Battle of Tippecanoe, later served in both houses of the legislature, and was Lieutenant-Governor of the State.⁵⁶

⁵⁰Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 24 Cong., 1 sess., IV, 564, 566.

⁵¹General Land Office, Commissions, Notice to Receivers of Appointment, 252; confirmed February 3, 1849, effective January 11, 1849.

⁵²Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Files, Indianapolis, 1849.

⁵³Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 30 Cong., 2 sess., VIII, 15, 52.

⁵⁴General Land Office, Commissions, Notice to Receivers of Appointment, 340.

⁵⁵General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Indianapolis, Cash Receipt no. 35210.

⁵⁶Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Papers, Indianapolis, 1849.

Thompson's successor, the Reverend Calvin W. Ruter, had been a Methodist circuit rider for more than thirty years and was in failing health when appointed. He was a Democrat, and through the powerful support of Senator Jesse D. Bright, had received the appointment on April 21, 1853. During his administration he helped close the Jeffersonville Land Office and also sold the last large lots of land left in the Indianapolis District.⁵⁷

Charles C. Campbell succeeded Ruter on June 15, 1858 and served until February 6, 1861.⁵⁸ He was an old man, a Democrat, and had served two terms as sheriff of Marion County.

When the Republicans won the Presidency in 1861, William Boaz, a hard-working Republican, replaced Campbell. Boaz, a wealthy young man, had served on the Indianapolis city council.⁵⁹

Granville M. Ballard, the last receiver at Indianapolis, was commissioned April 10, 1869,⁶⁰ and remained in office until the land office was abolished September 30, 1876.⁶¹

Some very able men administered the duties of the land office at Indianapolis, and except for Noble, Drake, and McCarty, there was apparently no corruption. Nevertheless, centrally located in the state capital, the

⁵⁷Ibid., 1853, brief of Ruter's and Campbell's Appointment Papers.

⁵⁸Ibid., 1858, brief of Campbell's Appointment Papers and those of Boaz, 1861; Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 37 Cong., 1 sess., 12, 277, 330.

⁵⁹Ibid.

⁶⁰Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 41 Cong., 1 sess., 1869, XVII, 23, 83.

⁶¹United States Statutes at Large, XIX, 121, part 1.

office provided a convenient means of making political contacts and rendering favors to Indiana politicians. A number of the men who held office there capitalized on these opportunities in the political and business world. Robert Hanna became a United States Senator; Noah Noble, Governor of the State of Indiana; James P. Drake and Granville H. Ballard became quite successful in the business world. The Brookville-Indianapolis Land Office was not dominated for a long time by a few men as were the offices at Vincennes and Jeffersonville, where Harrison, the Clarks, and Jesse D. Bright endorsed and decided most of the appointments.

This chapter has discussed the boundaries, Indian cessions, surveys and personnel of the Brookville-Indianapolis Land District. One more topic, the actual sales, remains to be discussed. When the new land office opened its doors for business on October 3, 1820,⁶² the first customer, Nathan Kyle, of Fayette County, Pennsylvania, purchased 80.03 acres at \$1.25 per acre.⁶³

The land officers offered 36 townships and fractional townships for sale in 1820 under the proclamation of April 18, 1820,⁶⁴ other lands being added in 1821 and 1822.⁶⁵ In 1820 sales totaled 96,367.68⁶⁶ acres, and in 1821, 200,913.64, three times the total of sales at all other Indiana offices

⁶²General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Brookville-Indianapolis, Cash Certificate no. 1.

⁶³Ibid.

⁶⁴General Land Office, Record of Proclamation of Public Land Sales, I, 39.

⁶⁵Ibid., 45, 54.

⁶⁶American State Papers, Public Lands, VI, 197.

for that year. Between 1820 and 1829 purchasers bought 941,074.93 acres in the land district. During the same period the total acreage sold in Indiana amounted to 2,169,149.70 acres, the largest amount of any state in the nation.⁶⁷

The exceptionally large volume was because of the good quality of the lands and their location near the state capital. Noah Noble, the receiver, reported in 1828 that 237,170.83 acres brought an average price of \$1.44½ per acre and 570,327.52 acres an average price of \$1.25 per acre. He reported further that on June 30, 1828 there were 1,842,101.65 acres unsold, which he divided into the following categories:

"1/5 of lands as 1st rate, would sell at \$1.25 per acre

"1/5 of lands as 2nd rate, would sell at .75¢ per acre

"3/5 of lands as 3rd rate, would sell at .50¢ per acre"⁶⁸

Land stock was employed in the purchase of lands at Indianapolis as well as at other offices in Indiana. Buyers used stock valued at \$499.97 in purchasing land at Indianapolis in 1829 and \$1,873.69 in 1830.⁶⁹ The total amount of land stock received in the payment of public lands in the Indianapolis Land District was \$3,122.06.⁷⁰

Huge quantities of military bounty land scrip were placed on the market in 1831, 1832 and 1833; despite the fact that it was bought and sold at about one-half of its nominal value, scrip could be entered at face value on any public land already placed on sale. Military bounty land

⁶⁷Ibid.

⁶⁸Ibid., V, 547, 548.

⁶⁹Ibid., VI, 196, 316, 455.

⁷⁰Ibid., VII, 326, 327.

scrip was extensively used in the payment of land at the Indianapolis Land Office because of the activities of Nicholas McCarty, one of the members of a widespread ring which speculated in bounty land scrip. McCarty, with the help of James P. Drake, the register, and the receiver's clerk, Thomas Sharpe,⁷¹ were able to pass \$102,767.52 worth of scrip in 1833⁷² alone. A total of \$399,762.74 of military bounty land scrip was entered at the land office between 1831 and 1843. Only \$2,000.00 was entered after 1836.

The annual sales at the Indianapolis Land Office during the 1830's continued large up through 1836 and reached new heights in 1836 when 293,194 acres of land were sold and \$372,738.14 were received as purchase money. Receipts slumped to \$65,215.11 in 1837; in 1838 only \$14,493.94 was received; and in 1842 the office sold 800.04 acres of land and received \$1,000.05 in payment. The better public lands in the district had been sold, and the government seriously considered closing the office. However, to avoid this action, part of the Miami Reserve was attached to the land district and as soon as surveyed, the lands were placed on sale. The sale of this land was reflected in the sales at the office in 1847-1849 as follows:

⁷¹Senate Executive Papers, Papers relative to nominations, St. Clair and Drake, 232-A3. These documents are in the National Archives.

⁷²See Table of Sales, Indianapolis, in the Appendix.

	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Purchase Money</u>
Sales in 1845 were	4,973.00	\$ 6,216.24
Sales in 1846 were	4,074.13	5,092.68
Sales in 1847 were	26,215.78	47,054.45
Sales in 1848 were	88,994.19	173,530.99
Sales in 1849 were	43,500.26	83,864.56

Many of these lands sold at a premium. For example, in 1851 a total of 24,308.62 acres were sold for \$46,388.43, or slightly less than an average of \$2.00 per acre.⁷³

The disposal of public lands in the district up to 1849 is shown by the report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, made in 1849.⁷⁴

Acres in the District	2,869,696.92
Acres proclaimed for sale	2,861,295.97
Acres sold	2,548,567.73
Proceeds of land sales	\$3,307,920.06
Acres reserved for school lands	90,706.51
Acres selected for roads and canals	70,359.87
Acres granted for seat of government	2,560.00
Acres of swamp land	38,193.00
Acres in Indian reservations	1,269.56
Unsold and unappropriated lands (acres)	144,593.25

⁷³Ibid.

⁷⁴Senate Documents, 30 Cong., 2 sess., 1849-1850, II, no. 2 (ser. no. 530), 243.

Under the Graduated Land Act of 1854 there were 4,263.14 acres sold at 12½ cents per acre and receipts totaled \$532.89.⁷⁵

Between 1859 and 1871, the office sold 17,829.67 acres and received \$20,912.80⁷⁶ in payment despite the fact that the Homestead Law, granting free lands to bonafide settlers, was enacted in 1862. There were 45 cancelled Homestead entries made at the land office and 33 Homestead Final Certificates were issued. David Taylor was issued the last patent in Indiana under the Homestead Act. His title was to an island in the Wabash River, located in Sullivan County.⁷⁷

There were no sales made between July, 1866 and August, 1869,⁷⁸ and the last cash entry (no. 36,289) was made at the Indianapolis Land Office in 1871.⁷⁹ The office was closed in 1876 and its business transferred to the Department of Interior, General Land Office, Washington, D. C. That office later issued several land patents for Indiana lands. The last was issued in 1910 to John Cabbage⁸⁰ for the southeast quarter, southwest quarter, township 19, 3 south range 7, west of the second principal meridian.

⁷⁵Executive Documents, 34 Cong., 1 sess., 1855-1856, I, no. 1 (ser. no. 840), 166-167.

⁷⁶See Table of Sales, Indianapolis, in the Appendix; General Land Office, Division H, Statement of Fund Accounts, IV, 352, 364.

⁷⁷General Land Office, Abstract of Sales, Indianapolis, Homestead Final Certificate no. 33, in the National Archives.

⁷⁸General Land Office, Abstract of Sales, Indianapolis, in the National Archives.

⁷⁹Ibid.

⁸⁰General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Patent no. 308237.

CHAPTER V

THE FORT WAYNE LAND OFFICE

Congress, on May 8, 1822, created a new land district in northern Indiana and established a land office at Fort Wayne. The act, in part, is as follows:¹

For the sale of unappropriated lands in the State of Indiana, to which the Indian title is extinguished, the following district shall be formed, and a land office established; all the public lands as aforesaid, to which the Indian title was extinguished by the treaties concluded at St. Mary's in the month of October, 1818, lying east of the range line separating the first and second ranges east of the second principal meridian, extended north to the present Indian boundary and north of a line to be run separating the tiers of townships numbered 20 and 21, commencing on the old Indian boundary, in ranges 13 east of the said principal meridian, in Randolph County, and the said district to be bounded on the east by the line dividing the states of Ohio and Indiana, shall form a district, for which a land office shall be established at Fort Wayne.

The boundary of the new district can be illustrated by drawing a line starting at a point midway between the towns of Cyclone and Kirklin, eastward through Muncie to a point north of Winchester, thence northeast to Portland and thence to the Ohio-Indiana state line. The state line constituted the eastern boundary. The northern boundary was a vague one, but in general it followed the headwaters of the St. Mary's River westward to the headwaters of the Wabash River, but excluded the Miami Reserve.

In 1828² Congress extended the limits of the district by adding the newly ceded Indian lands lying "east of the line dividing the first and

¹United States Statutes at Large, III, 201.

²Ibid., IV, 264.

second ranges east of the second principal meridian, and north of the southern boundary of the Fort Wayne district." One of these cessions of lands lay between the Wabash and El Rivers and the other large area was located in northeastern Indiana in what is now LaGrange and Steuben counties. On February 19, 1831, Congress added most of the public domain in Indiana northeast of the Wankakes swamps and north of the Wabash River to the Fort Wayne Land District. The act provided "that all lands to which the Indian title is extinguished, lying in that part of the State of Indiana which is east of the Lake Michigan bordering upon the northern line of said State, and not attached to any land district,"³ be sold at the Fort Wayne Land Office.

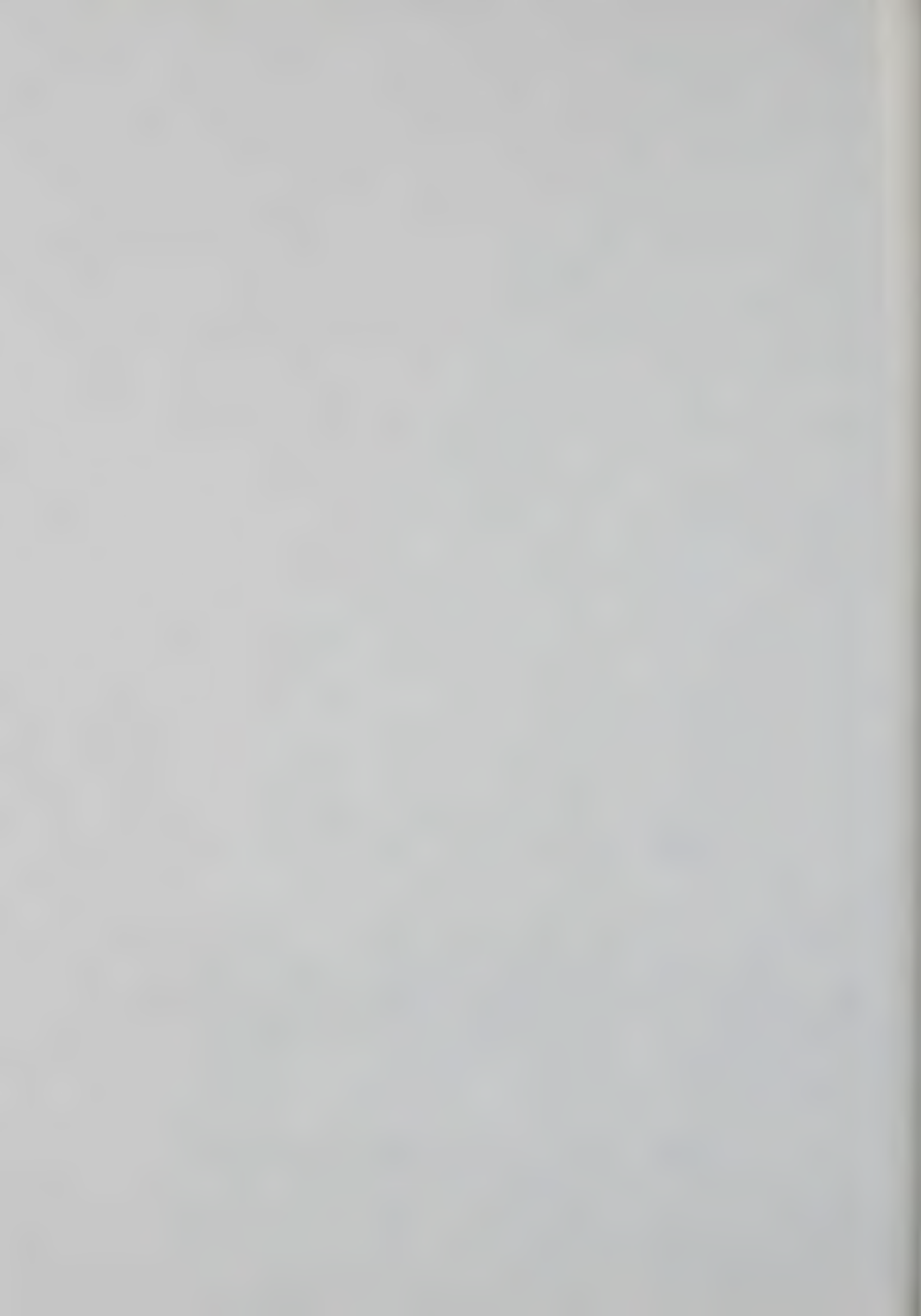
Congress established a new land district in northwestern Indiana on March 3, 1833,⁴ located the office at Laporte, and defined its boundaries as "all that district of the country, in the State of Indiana, lying west of the line dividing ranges 7 and 8 east of the second principal meridian, and north of the line dividing townships 24 and 25." This reduced the Fort Wayne District so that a line drawn north from the Wabash River east through North Manchester to the Indiana⁵-Michigan boundary line would represent the approximate western boundary.

The boundaries of the four northern land districts adjoined the Miami Reserve, a large area of land south of the Wabash River which still belonged to the Indians. Title to this land was obtained by the government

³Ibid., IV, 442.

⁴Ibid., IV, 653.

⁵Senate Executive Documents, 20 Cong., 1 sess., 1827-1828, I, no. 5 (ser. no. 103), 5; United States Statutes at Large, V, 56, (Act of June 23, 1836) the act of March 2, 1827, authorized President to ascertain the northern boundary of Indiana; the Indiana-Illinois boundary line was surveyed in 1829 and resurveyed in part in 1834.



in treaties concluded in 1834, 1838, and 1840.⁶ Responsibility for the sale of lands in the Reserve was divided among the land offices located at Indianapolis, Winamac, and Fort Wayne, by the act of August 8, 1846.⁷ The measure provided that

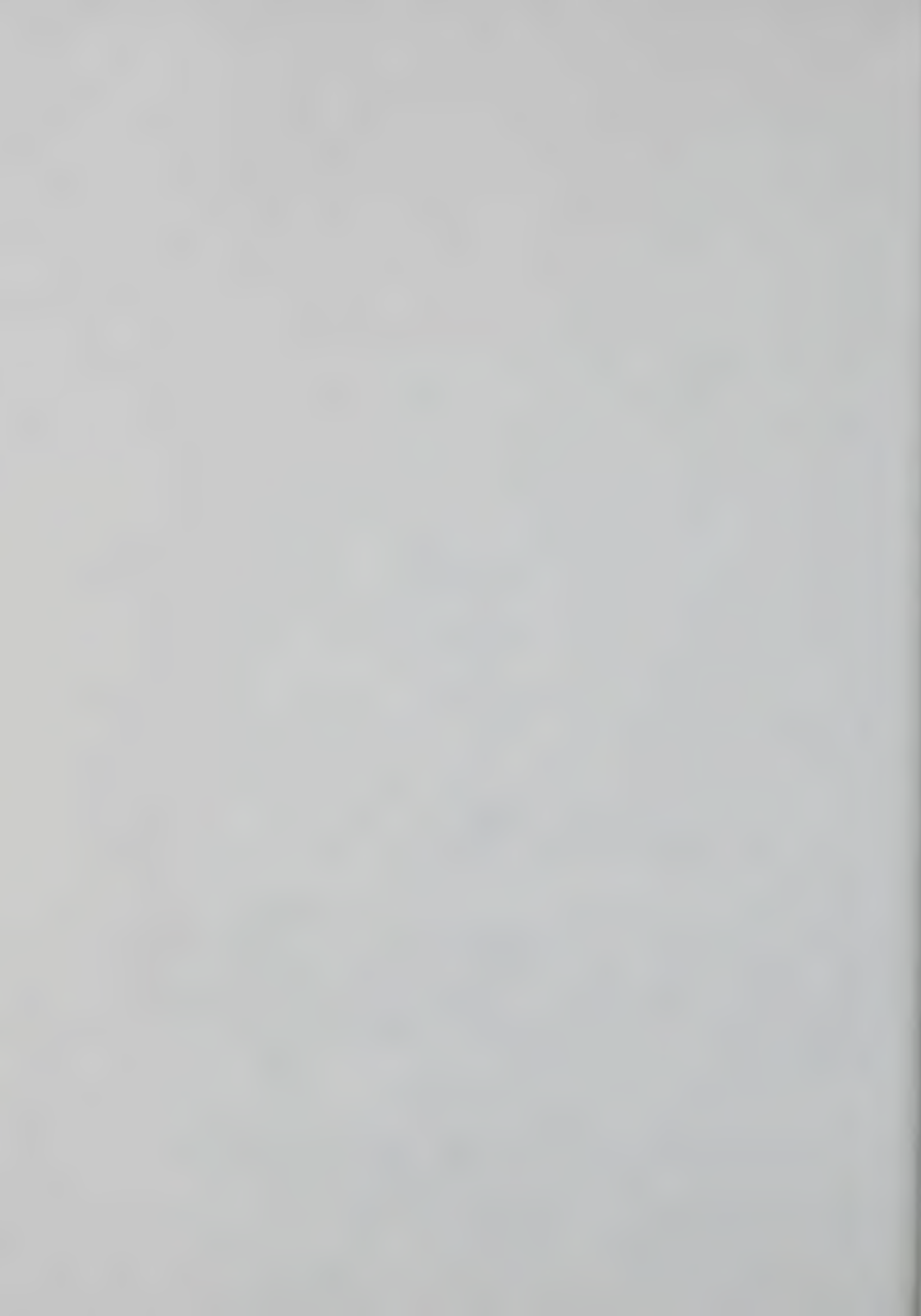
... all the lands in the State of Indiana which lie north of the township line dividing the townships 23 and 24, and east of the range line dividing ranges 4 and 5 east, which lie south of the Wabash river be and the same are hereby, attached to the Fort Wayne land district, and all that tract of land which lies north of the township line dividing townships 23 and 24, and west of the range line dividing ranges 4 and 5 east, and east of the east line of the Crawfordville land district, be attached to and shall form a part of the Winamac land district; and all the lands lying south of the said township line, dividing the said townships 23 and 24 which were heretofore within the limits of the Fort Wayne land district, including the portions of the late Miami cessions south of said line, be, and the same are attached to the Indianapolis land district; and all lands lying within any of the above said land districts, which may not have been offered for sale, shall hereafter constitute a part of the land district in which they respectively lay.

This was the last act passed by Congress regulating the boundaries of the land districts of Indiana.

After the inclusion of part of the Miami Reserve, the approximate boundaries of the Fort Wayne Land District, in terms of present-day geography, are represented by a line drawn southward from a point about six miles west of the intersection of the northeastern boundary of Elkhart County and the Indiana-Michigan state line south through North Manchester to the Wabash River, southwest along the Wabash to the mouth of the Mississinewa River (Peru), south to Greentown, east through Winchester to the Ohio-Indiana boundary, north along the Indiana-Ohio state line to the Indiana-

⁶Royce, Indian Land Cessions in Indiana, 258, 259, 260.

⁷United States Statutes at Large, IX, 75.



Michigan boundary, and west along that boundary to its starting point in Elkhart County.

There were between one and two hundred cessions of land by the Indians⁸ to the United States in Indiana alone, a majority of which were located in the Fort Wayne and Winamac Land Districts. However, many of these were duplications; some lands were ceded as many as four or five times.

A small tract of land which included the site of Fort Wayne was ceded to the Federal Government by the Treaty of Greenville in 1795. The next large cessions of land in the Fort Wayne District were granted by the treaty with the Wyandots and other tribes on September 29, 1817 and were followed by the Treaty of St. Mary's, October 26, 1818; treaties with the Pottawatomie, August 29, 1826; Treaty of Eel River, October 23, 1826; cessions by Pottawatomie and other tribes, September 20, 1823 and October 27, 1832; and treaties with the Miami on October 23, 1834, November 6, 1838, and November 28, 1840.

By the treaty with the Wyandots in 1817 large tracts of land in northwestern Ohio and the area lying between the St. Joseph and St. Mary's Rivers and the Ohio boundary line in Indiana were ceded to the government. The treaty of St. Mary's added all of central Indiana to the public domain, from part of which about one-fourth of the Fort Wayne District was formed.

The Treaty of the Mississinewa with the Pottawatomie and Miami August 29, 1826 and October 23, 1826 extinguished the Indiana title to

⁸For a summary of cessions by the Indians of lands in Indiana, see C. C. Royce, in Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology, 1879-1880; for text and discussions of Indian treaties, Charles J. Kappler (comp. and ed.), Indian Affairs, Laws and Treaties in Senate Documents, 58 Cong., 2 sess., 1319 (2 ed., 2 vols., ser. nos. 4623 and 4624) 11, 353-356, 367-370, 372-375.



lands between the El and Wabash Rivers, or lands now situated in Cass, Miami, Wabash, Huntington, and Whitley Counties. The Pottawatomie, by the Treaty of Carey Mission, September 20, 1828, ceded all of their claims in northeastern Indiana to the United States, which included all or parts of the present-day counties of St. Joseph, Elkhart, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Dekalb, Kosciusko and Whitley; on October 27, 1832 they ceded lands north of the Kankakee, El, and Tippecanoe Rivers, in part, a confirmation of previous cessions. This grant included most of northwestern Indiana lying north of the Iroquois River as well as other land lying northwest of the Wabash River.

By treaties concluded with the Miami Indians on October 23, 1834, November 6, 1838, and November 28, 1840 the Miami reserve, the last large tract of land remaining in Indian possession, was transferred to the United States. This included over 700,000⁹ acres of very rich, fertile land located in the present counties of Howard, Cass, Miami, Grant, Tipton and Hamilton. One of the terms of the treaty of 1840 allowed the Indians five years in which to remove themselves from the country. These lands were proclaimed for sale in 1847, soon after the completion of surveys.

Measurements in the Fort Wayne District had to await the partial completion of those in the Terre Haute and Brookville Districts. They were further delayed in 1821 due to the hostility of the Indians, who occupied most of the land in the Fort Wayne District. Because of this, the second principal meridian was not extended to the disputed Michigan-Indiana state

⁹General Land Office, Surveyor General of the Northwest, Letters Received, Lucius Lyon to H. M. Young, Commissioner of the General Land Office, November 5, 1847.

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boundary until 1823-1829, after much of the District's territory had been surveyed. Consequently, these range lines do not coincide with the same numbered range lines south of the Wabash River.

A small area around Fort Wayne was surveyed quite early, but large-scale surveys in the district did not start until 1822-1823. In those years James Hiley, J. Worthington, Thomas G. Noble, J. Hendricks, David Hillis, Price E. Kellogg, William Brookfield, and B. Bently¹¹ completed surveys of all land ceded by the Indians southwest of the Wabash River to the boundary of the Brookville District.

Lands secured by the treaties of the Mississinewa in 1826 and Carey's Mission in 1828¹² were measured by B. Bently, J. Hendricks, A. S. Vance, David Hillis, C. W. Christmas, and Thomas Henderson in 1828 and 1829.¹³

Bently and Hendricks surveyed the lands between the Wabash and Eel Rivers in 1828; Vance, Thomas J. Todd, Hillis, Christmas, and Henderson those situated in what are now parts of Whitely, Kosciusko, Marshall, Elkhart, Laporte and St. Joseph Counties in 1829; and E. H. Lytle and G. W. Harrison most of the land in LaGrange, Steuben, Noble, and DeKalb Counties in 1830.

Some of the Miami Reserve was surveyed by Arthur St. Clair Vance in 1838 before the final cession which A. E. VanKess and John Mullet completed in 1846.¹⁴

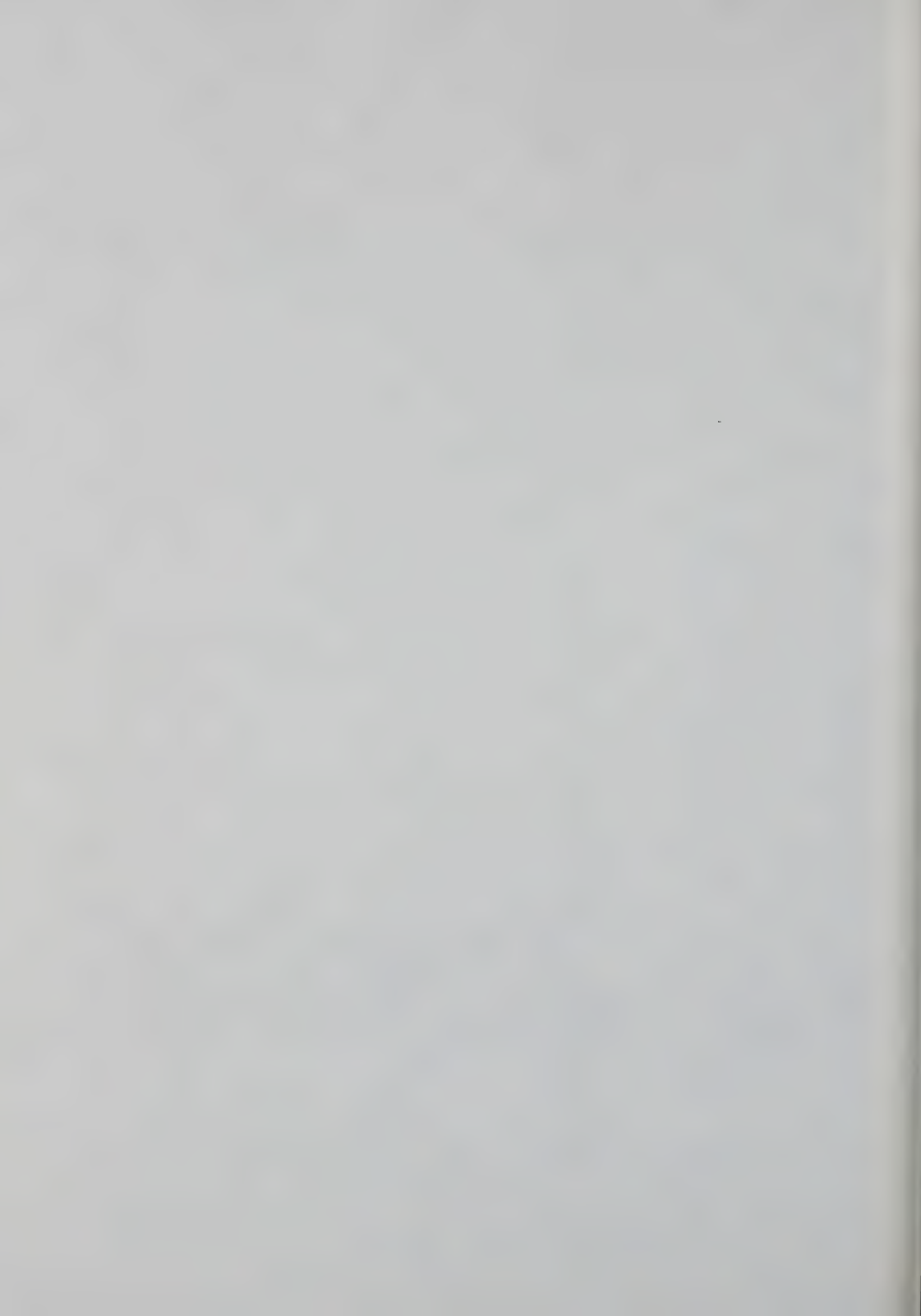
¹⁰United States Statutes at Large, IV, 264.

¹¹Land surveys, State Geological Report, 1882; Esarey, History of Indiana, I, 393.

¹²Royce, Indian Land Cessions in Indiana, 258-259.

¹³Land surveys, State Geological Report, 1882; Esarey, History of Indiana, I, 393.

¹⁴Ibid., Executive Documents, 29 Cong., 2 sess., 1846-1847, II, no. 9 (ser. no. 498), 46.



The rapidity with which surveys were conducted is shown by a report of the Surveyor General of the Northwest who stated that on June 30, 1823¹⁵ the survey of 1,222,622 acres had been completed. The government usually placed land on sale soon after surveys were completed, and this policy was followed at Fort Wayne, where Captain Samuel C. Vance was appointed register and Joseph Holman commissioned receiver on February 26, 1823.¹⁶

Vance was born in Pennsylvania and entered the United States Army in 1791. He served with Harmar and Wayne in the Indian Wars, first as a lieutenant of infantry and later as a captain. Vance resigned his commission in 1802,¹⁷ settled at Cincinnati, and became a deputy government surveyor. He was one of the founders of Lawrenceburg, Indiana and lived there at the time of his appointment as register at Fort Wayne. One of Vance's daughters married Lazarus Noble, receiver at Brockville, who was a brother of Senator William Noble.¹⁸ Vance served from 1823 until his removal by Jackson in 1829.¹⁹

He was succeeded by Robert Breckenridge, a friend of David Wallace and Senator John Tipton. Breckenridge received a permanent commission March 25, 1830²⁰ and remained in office until March 23, 1838.²¹ During his

¹⁵Executive Documents, 19 Cong., 1 sess., 1825-26, II, no. 20 (ser. no. 126), 6.

¹⁶Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 17 Cong., 2 sess., III, 335, 338.

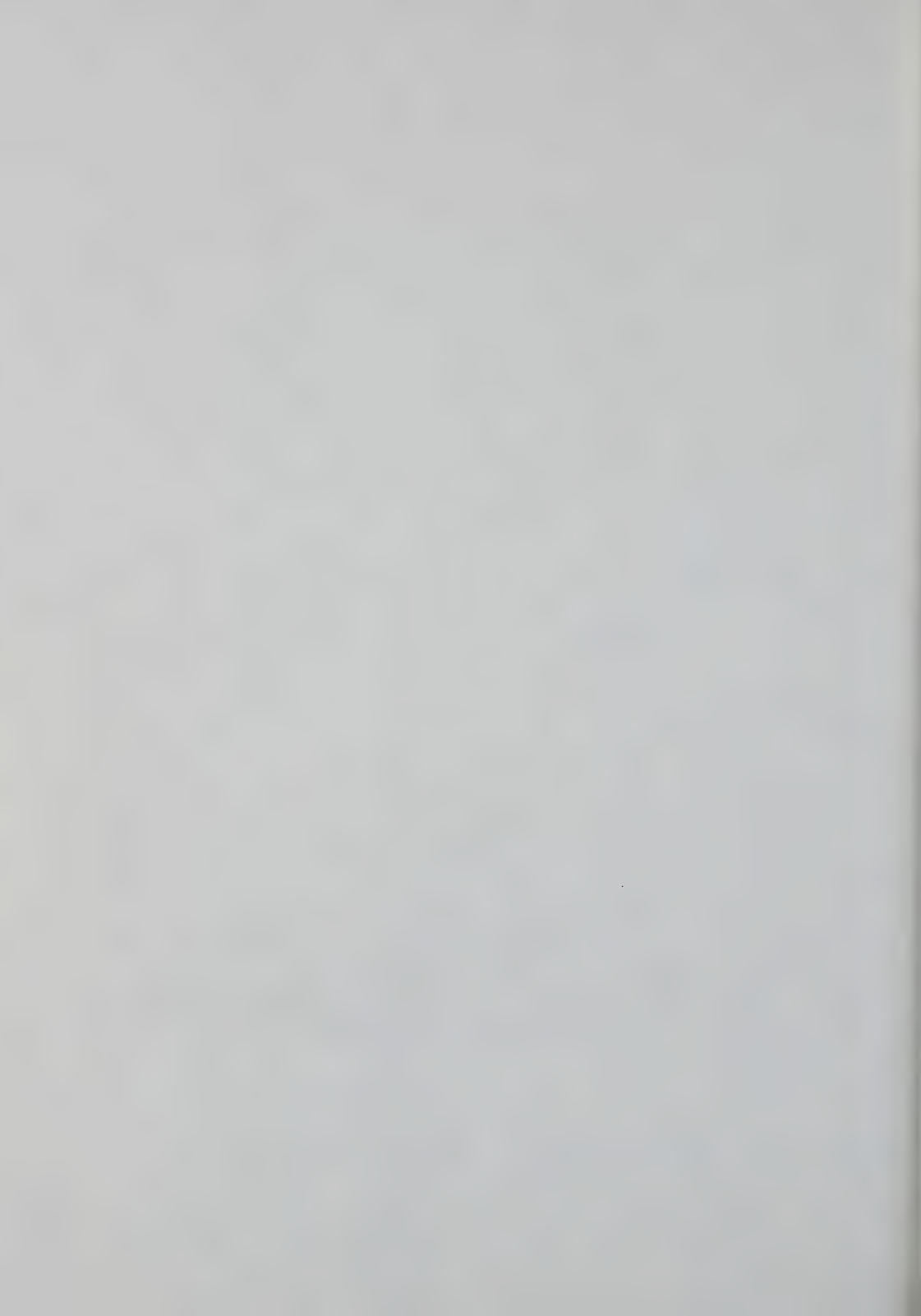
¹⁷Holtzman, Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army, I, 981.

¹⁸Archibald Shaw, (ed.), History of Dearborn County, (Indianapolis, 1915), 137.

¹⁹Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Files, Indianapolis, 1849, see William H. L. Noble.

²⁰General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Fort Wayne, Cash Certificate no. 222 dated September 23, 1829; Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 21 Cong., 2 sess., IV, 59, 61, 372, 392.

²¹Ibid., no. 21750.



terms in office land sales reached their peak in the Fort Wayne District.

Breckenridge was not reappointed when his commission expired in 1836,²² and Daniel Reid (or Road), a partisan of Jonathan McCarthy's, and therefore no friend of Senator Tipton, replaced him. Tipton had Reid's nomination tabled but later, March 27, 1838,²³ it was confirmed. Reid was removed in 1841 when Harrison became President and William Polke was appointed in his place.

Polke was a resident of Knox County, a Baptist preacher and the brother-in-law of the Reverend Isaac McCoy. He had been a judge of Knox County, commissioner of the Michigan Road, was in charge of the removal of the Pottawatomí Indians from Indiana in 1838, and was Senator Tipton's political and legal adviser.²⁴ After Tipton's death early in 1839 he became a prominent supporter of General Harrison²⁵ and actively campaigned for him. He held office from August 23, 1841²⁶ until his death in March, 1843.²⁷

William Edsall²⁸ was selected to complete his unexpired term and

²² Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 25 Cong., 2 sess., V, 89, 90, 93.

²³ Ibid., 95.

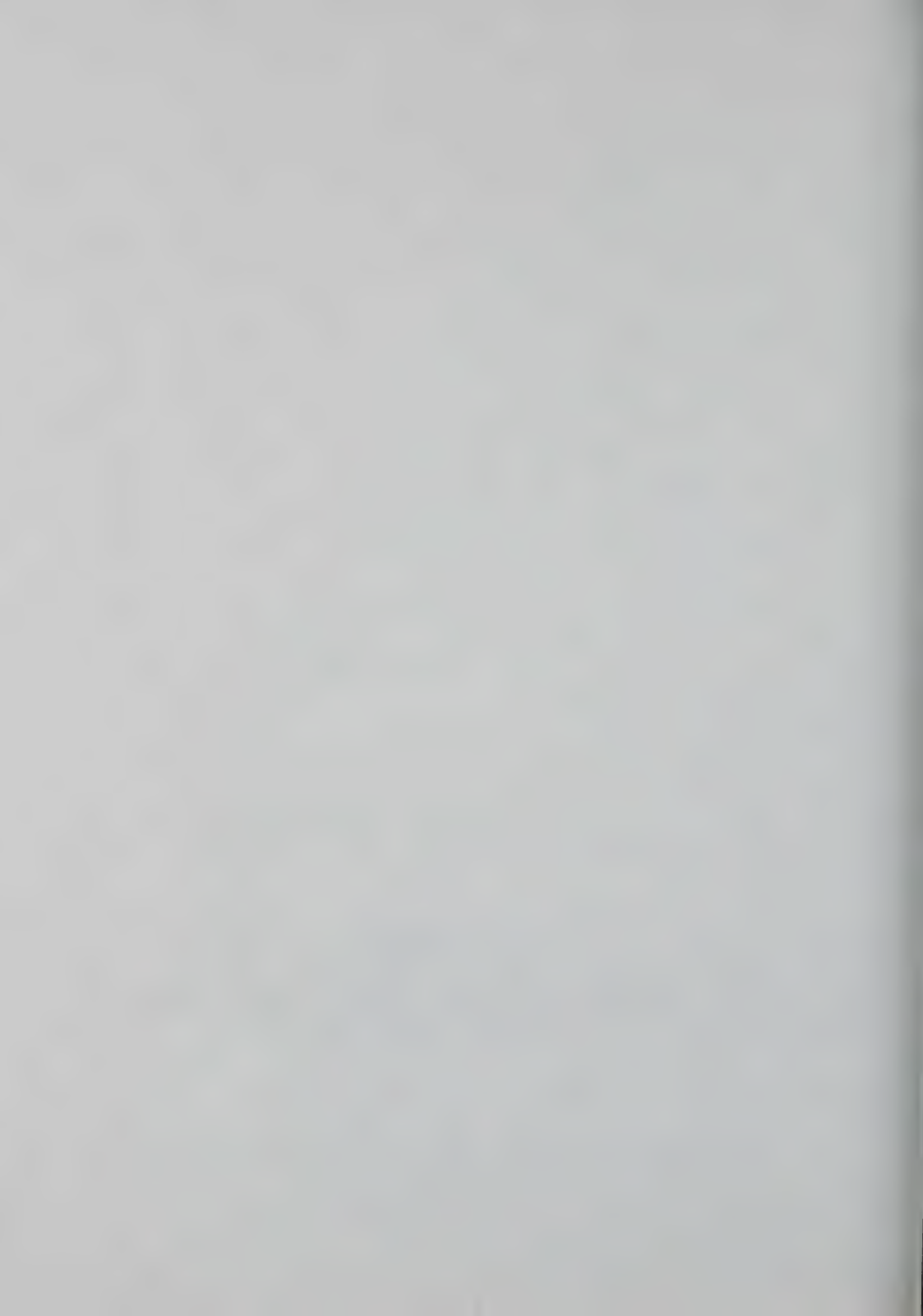
²⁴ Robertson and Niker, John Tipton Papers, II, 419-420, 584.

²⁵ Esarey, History of Indiana, I, 358, 359.

²⁶ General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Fort Wayne, Cash Receipt no. 25177.

²⁷ Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 28 Cong., 1 sess., VI, 214.

²⁸ Ibid., 214, 216.



continued in office until June 9, 1848. Edsall had been a former business partner of the Ewing brothers in the fur and hide business but had been forced to withdraw over a business dispute. Henry Cooper and Wilson declared that Edsall had lost all of his money in Ewing's company and that the "Ewings generally ruin all their friends."²⁹ Although the Ewings opposed Edsall's nomination, his friends were able to get him confirmed.

Thomas Tigar, a Democrat³⁰ and editor of the Fort Wayne Sentinel, a Democratic newspaper, violently opposed to General Taylor's presidential aspirations, replaced Edsall.³¹ Tigar's appointment was made to strengthen the Democratic party in Allen County, but when General Taylor, a Whig, became President Tigar was removed. Thus, his tenure was only from May 4, 1848 to June 12, 1849.³²

At this time the Methodists were very numerous in the state and exerted great political influence through Senator Jesse D. Bright and others. Bright joined Caleb B. Smith, R. W. Thompson, Allan Hamilton, G. H. S. Dunn and others in endorsing the application of Samuel Brenton, a Methodist circuit rider and presiding elder of the Fort Wayne Methodist Episcopal district for register of the Fort Wayne Land Office.

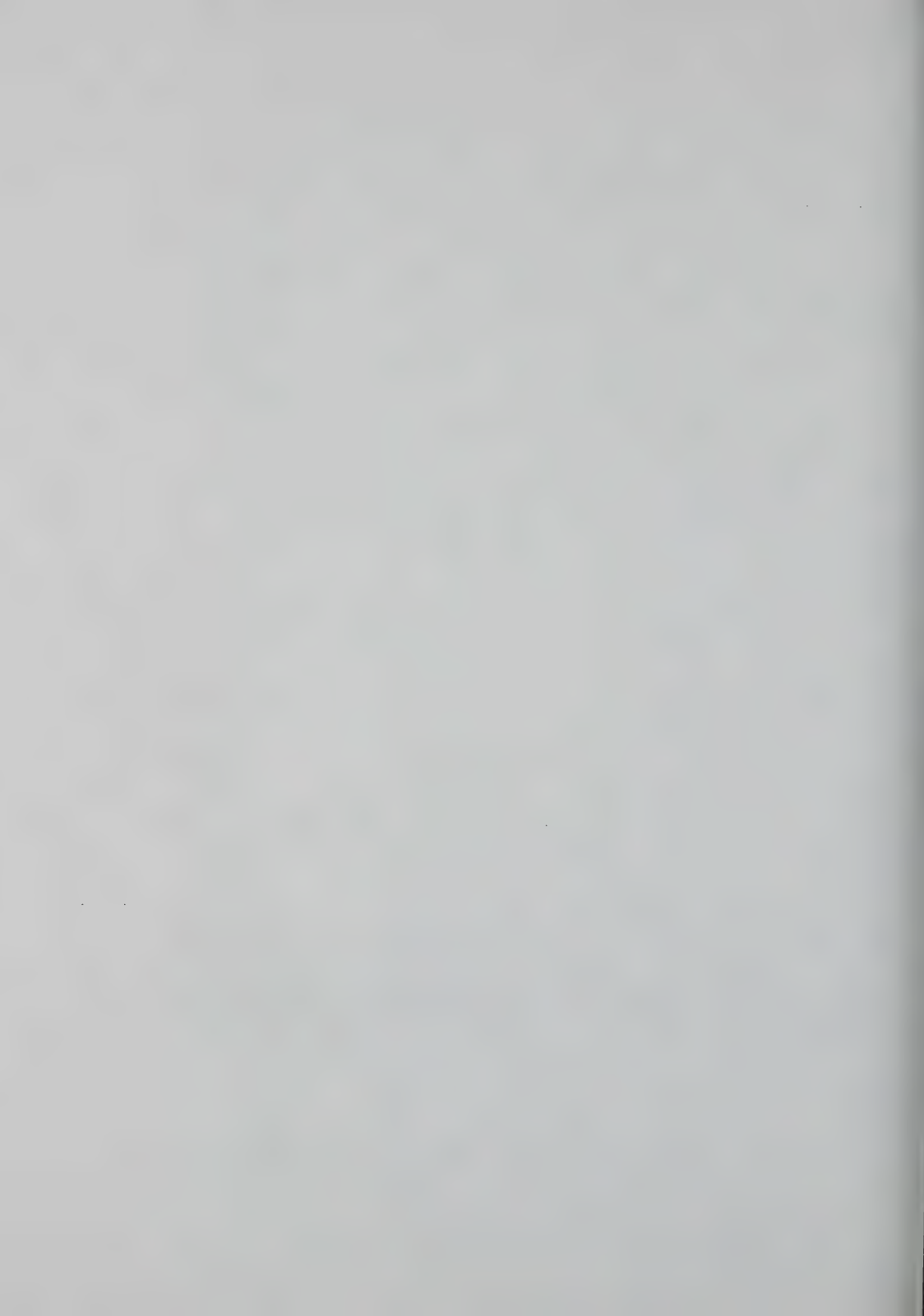
Brenton had been educated in the legal profession and had served in the state legislature before he became a minister. An attack of paralysis had rendered his right arm useless, but he learned to write with his left hand. Although charged with being physically unable to conduct the

²⁹Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Papers, Fort Wayne, 1848.

³⁰Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 30 Cong., 1 sess., VII, 409.

³¹Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Files, Fort Wayne, 1849.

³²General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Fort Wayne, Cash Receipt no. 27346 and no. 28075.



affairs of the office,³³ he was confirmed and served until August 11, 1851³⁴ when he resigned to campaign successfully for United States Representative on the Whig ticket.³⁵

George W. Wood, editor of The Time and Press, a Fort Wayne Whig paper, succeeded Brenton in February, 1852.³⁶ He had edited the paper during ten of the fifteen years he had lived in Allen County, and had a wide following among the Whigs. He served only until February 21, 1852³⁷ when the Fort Wayne office was closed.

Joseph Holman, the first receiver of the Fort Wayne Land Office, was appointed March 3, 1823,³⁸ and made the first land sale in the district on October 23, 1823.³⁹ He was born in Woodford County, Kentucky, October 1, 1788 and settled in Wayne County, Indiana in 1805. Holman had served in the Territorial Legislature in 1815, in the Constitutional Convention of 1816, and six terms in the General Assembly. He engaged in business as a merchant, tanner, pork packer and as a land speculator; he helped to found Peru, Indiana, finally dying in Wayne County, April 17,

³³Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Files, Fort Wayne, 1849, see Brenton.

³⁴Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 31 Cong., 1 sess., VIII, 229; General Land Office, Land Entry papers, Fort Wayne, Cash Receipts nos. 280476-280702.

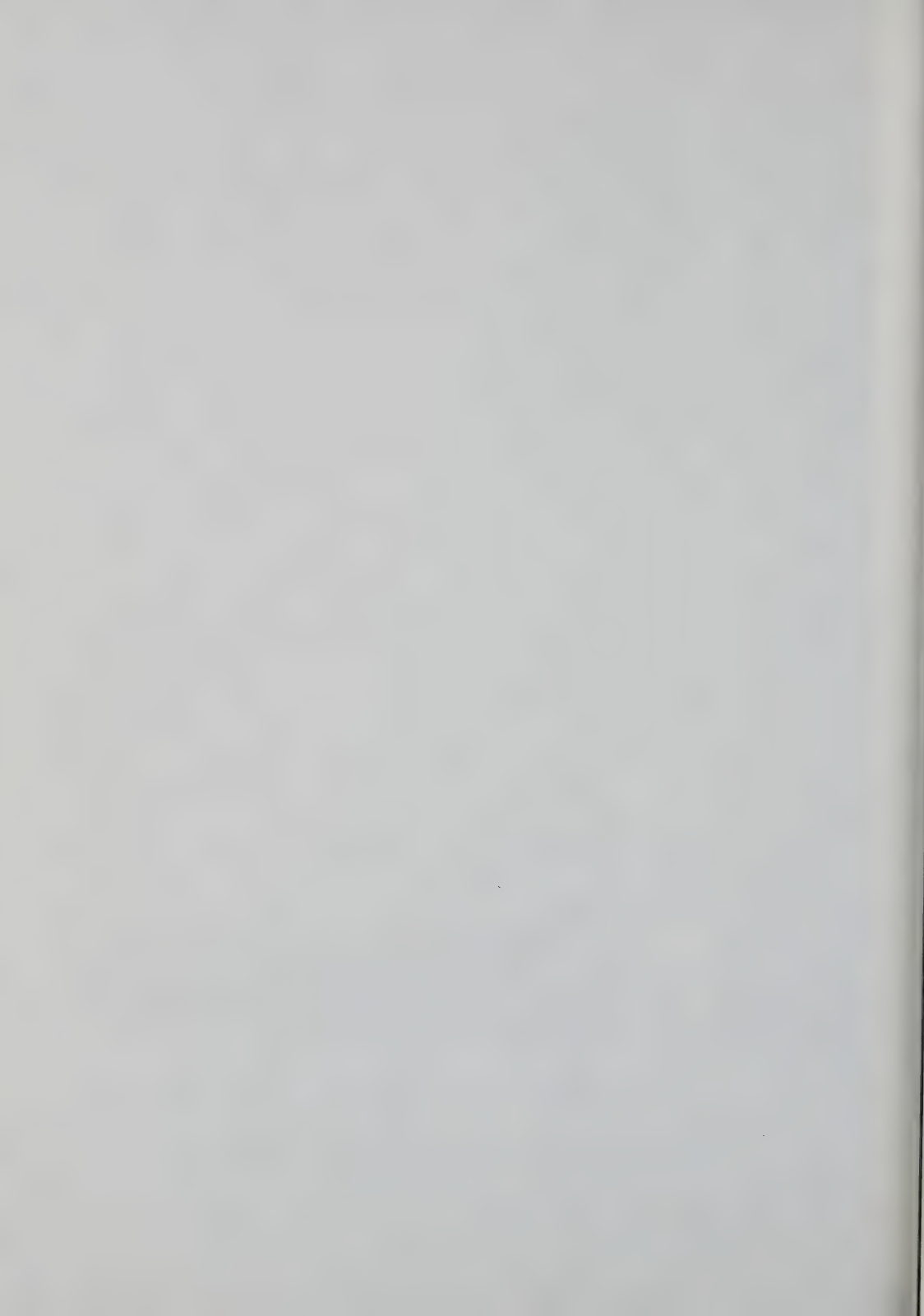
³⁵Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Files, Brenton's letter of resignation addressed to President United States dated June 25, 1851.

³⁶Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Files, Fort Wayne; Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 33 Cong., 1 sess., VIII, 358, 359.

³⁷General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Fort Wayne, Cash Receipt no. 28717.

³⁸Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 17 Cong., 2 sess., III, 335, 338.

³⁹General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Fort Wayne, Cash Receipt no. 7.



1873.⁴⁰ He was removed by Jackson September 26, 1829,⁴¹ and Jonathan A. McCarty was appointed register.

McCarty was born in Virginia August 3, 1795 and moved to Franklin County, Indiana in 1804. He represented that county in the legislature of 1818-1819, and in 1819 moved to Connorsville. He resigned the register-ship after his election to Congress in 1831, serving in that body from 1831-1837.⁴² Both Senator Tipton and McCarty were interested in the Indian trade, land speculation, and state politics, in which their conflicting interests caused them to become bitter political enemies. McCarty later moved to Iowa and died there in 1852.⁴³

McCarty left office November 30, 1831,⁴⁴ and John Spencer succeeded him as receiver. Spencer was a wealthy man but, not satisfied with that wealth, he conducted a note shaving business, using government money with which to speculate in land. Land office examiner Nathaniel West reported in 1836 that

⁴⁰Robertson and Riker, John Tipton Papers, I, 228, note 6; Andrew W. Young, History of Wayne County, (Cincinnati, 1872), 179, 180.

⁴¹Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 21 Cong., 1. sess., IV, 50; General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Fort Wayne, Cash Receipt no. 222.

⁴²Robertson and Riker, John Tipton Papers, I, 646.

⁴³Frederick I. Barrow, (ed.), History of Fayette County, (Indianapolis, 1917), 588-590; August J. Reife, History of Franklin County, Indiana, (Indianapolis, 1915), 638-639.

⁴⁴General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Fort Wayne, Cash Receipt no. 1142.



... both he and his relative Dawson had been in the habit, in the office, of shaving money, that is, exchanging the money which could not be received for public lands; the rate of exchange or discount varying from 3 to 5 per cent. I find in the case of Isaiah Wells of Marion County, Ohio, he paid in to the hands of the Receiver, in his office, eight dollars for exchanging \$240 of Ohio Bank notes of \$5 each. . . . The government money paid in by one person, has been handed out by the Receiver in exchange for uncurrent, or not land office money,--he receiving for his own private use the discount as agreed upon, and that the same government money again is passed into the land office, to be again used for the like purpose, in pay for public lands.⁴⁵

Spencer was also accused of withholding government deposits, but William Hendricks, in a letter of August 31, 1836,⁴⁶ stated that he (Hendricks) is informed that Spencer had made his deposits to the Treasurer's (of the United States) satisfaction and, if so, "I hope that minor matters, if mere irregularities, will be overlooked. He is reputed to be an honest and honorable man. It would to some extent produce excitement if he were removed, for he has many warm and influential friends both at Fort Wayne and in Dearborn County, from which he has removed to his present residence. Better let it be."

Spencer served until his commission expired and was replaced by James W. Borden, a Democrat, who took office January 17, 1840,⁴⁷ though Samuel Lewis,⁴⁸ a Whig, replaced Borden July 8, 1841⁴⁹ after the Whigs

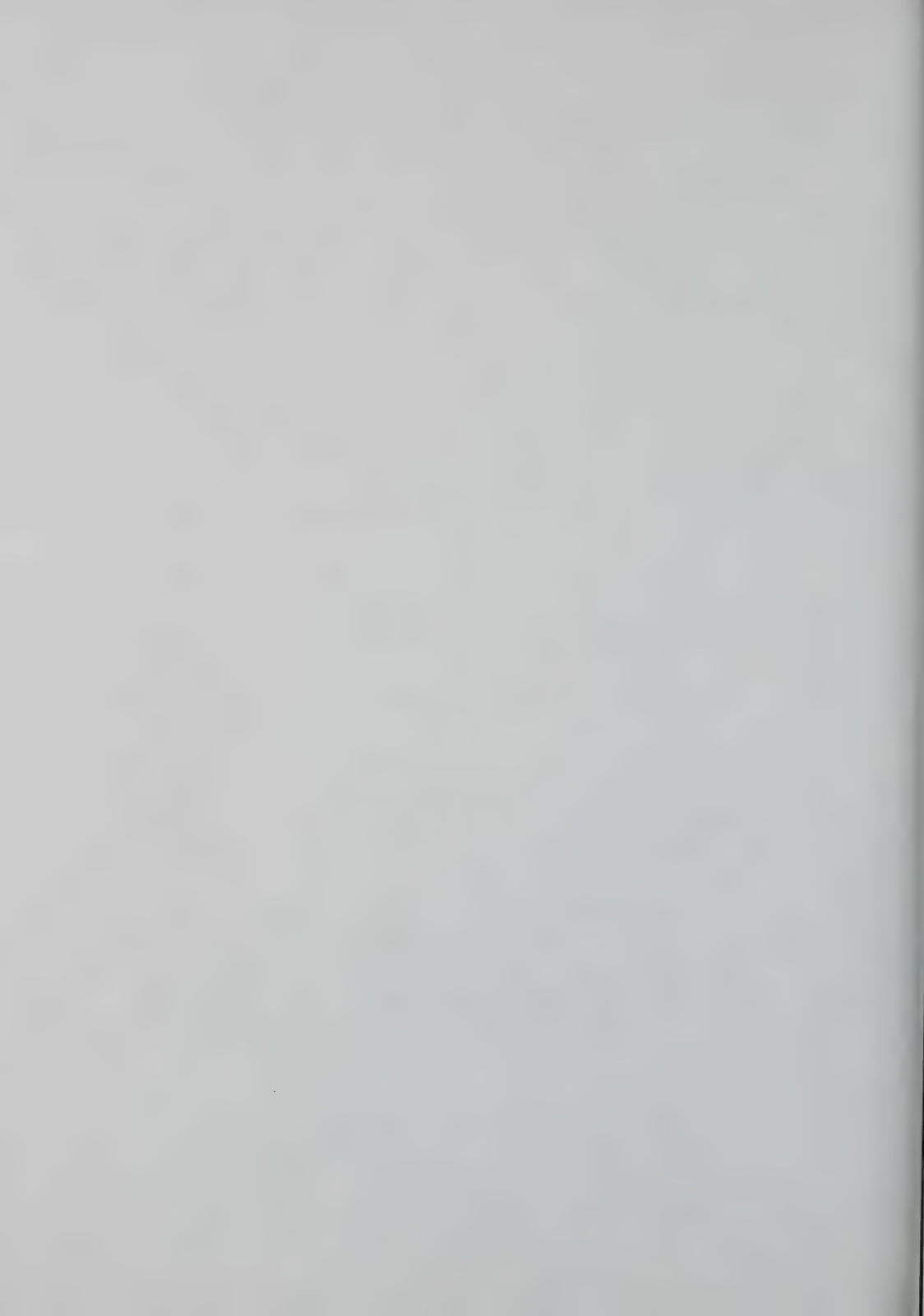
⁴⁵Executive Documents, 24 Cong., 2 sess., 1836-1837, III, no. 142, (ser. no. 300), 19, 20.

⁴⁶Ibid.

⁴⁷Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 26 Cong., 1 sess., V, 233, 224; General Land Office, Land Entry papers, Fort Wayne, Cash Receipt no. 24839, 24, 840.

⁴⁸General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Fort Wayne, Cash Receipts nos. 25161 and 25162.

⁴⁹Journal of the Executive proceedings of the Senate, 27 Cong., 1 sess., V, 395, 402.



came into office.

Lewis was born in Mason County, Virginia, moved to Cincinnati in 1811, then to Brockville, and finally to Fort Wayne upon his appointment as receiver. He served as Indian sub-agent under Tipton, 1827-1829 and was later appointed a commissioner of the Wabash and Erie Canal in the winter of 1829-1830, a position he still held at the time of his appointment as receiver.⁵⁰ He remained in office until his death early in 1843.⁵¹

Isaac D. G. Nelson completed Lewis' unexpired term and remained in office until May 5, 1849.⁵² Nelson was the son-in-law of the late Representative in Congress, William Rockhill, and had been the editor of the Fort Wayne Sentinel, a paper supporting the Democratic Party. He was removed because of Whig charges that "Nelson, Tiger and Sinclair (the late Indian agent) were notoriously unscrupulous,"⁵³ and also because Nelson had violently opposed the election of General Taylor through his newspaper. Smallwood Noel⁵⁴ succeeded to the receiver's office upon the removal of Nelson and served until the office closed in 1852. Noel was the brother-in-law of William G. Ewing, Whig representative in Congress from the Fort Wayne district in 1849, and his son, Vance Noel, was editor of a Whig

⁵⁰Robertson and Riker, John Tinton Papers, I, 654, 734.

⁵¹Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 27 Cong., 3 sess., VI, 163, 169; General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Fort Wayne, Cash Receipts nos. 25353, 25354.

⁵²Ibid., and no. 28079.

⁵³Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Files, Fort Wayne, 1849.

⁵⁴Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 31 Cong., 1 sess., VIII, 183, 250.



newspaper, the Indiana State Journal, published at Indianapolis.⁵⁵

The appointment to the receivership at this time was eagerly sought by leading Whigs of the state because "the Mississinewa Indian lands annuities were being paid and this process by trade and involution is said to yield three or four thousand dollars per annum."⁵⁶

The decline of sales and the exhaustion of select public land led to the closing of the land office in 1852, and lands were placed under the jurisdiction of the Indianapolis land office.

The political power wielded by land officers at this office was extensive, and the political parties selected outstanding men for appointments. Most of them had large personal followings and were outstanding examples of successful business men in their communities or in the state. To illustrate this, the political struggle between Tipton, the Ewings and the McCartys probably produced some of the most capable appointments made in the northern land districts. In the congressional district, which had Fort Wayne as its focal point, the political power was evenly balanced between Whigs and Democrats, and the appointment of outstanding men to the positions of register and receiver frequently tipped the scale in congressional and state elections. Several of the men selected for appointment at Fort Wayne became nationally famous. Due to the efforts of its personnel, the affairs of the land office were generally administered in an efficient manner.

The land office, situated in the "dilapidated old fort buildings"⁵⁷

⁵⁵Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Files, Fort Wayne, 1849.

⁵⁶Ibid., John G. Walpole to Secretary of the Interior, and Ewing, December 20, 1849, contained in endorsements of Noel's application.

⁵⁷Robertson and Riker, John Tipton Papers, I, 11.



was opened for business June 1, 1823,⁵⁸ although no land was placed on sale until October 23, 1823.⁵⁹ Entry number one was made by William Millison (Wilson, who bought 93.3 acres of land at \$1.25 per acre.⁶⁰ Total sales the first year amounted to 3,734.58 acres⁶¹ and but 19,839.06⁶² acres were sold in the district by between 1823 and 1830.

Vance and Holman reported the condition and status of lands in the Fort Wayne District on June 30, 1822 as:⁶³

Total lands unsold estimated	1,546,000 acres
1st rate lands	200,000 acres
Lands first placed on sale October, 1823--unsold	1,537,600 acres
Lands first placed on sale October, 1825--unsold	8,400 acres

The officers also stated that on May, 1827:

... a barren about five miles wide, all along the northern boundary of the Fort Wayne district together with the unsold fractional townships along the Maumee (offered for sale in 1825) were withdrawn from sale by the Commissioner of the General Land Office and these lands were designated for canal purposes.

There were about 115,000 acres in this reserve. In the same report the

⁵⁸General Land Office, Letters Sent, Register and Receivers, XVII, 19.

⁵⁹General Land Office, Record of Proclamation of Public Land Sales, 58, no. 54.

⁶⁰General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Fort Wayne, Cash Receipt no. 1, dated October 23, 1823.

⁶¹American State Papers, Public Lands, VI, 197.

⁶²Ibid.

⁶³Ibid., V, 549, 550.



lands of the district were described in these words:⁶⁴

The country, generally, composing the Fort Wayne District, presents a level surface, a deep rich soil, and an abundant growth of timber, in the state of nature, a large portion of it appears, at first view, too wet for cultivation but this objection is soon found to disappear when timber is cleared, and land brought into state of cultivation.

As much land was sold in the year 1830 as had been previously sold at the Fort Wayne office from 1823 to 1829,⁶⁵ and reached their peak in 1835 when 1,294,357 acres⁶⁶ were sold and the receipts amounted to \$1,620,617.34. This was truly a land office business! The gross sales were the largest of any land office in Indiana and in the nation for that year.

Sales for the ten-year period between 1830 and 1840 averaged over \$350,000.00 per year, as the following table will show.⁶⁷

<u>Year</u>	<u>Acres Sold</u>	<u>Purchase Money</u>
1830	23,301.69	\$ 29,271.41
1831	52,496.14	66,930.99
1832	59,227.78	74,655.55
1833	62,612.74	78,370.72
1834	96,350.30	120,438.11
1835	396,738.01	502,809.47
1836	1,294,357.00	1,620,617.34
1837	492,756.00	616,216.41
1838	203,448.57	254,310.86
1839	136,392.08	170,495.23
Total	2,817,680.31	\$3,534,116.09

⁶⁴Ibid. ⁶⁵American State Papers, Public Lands, VI, 197.

⁶⁶General Land Office, Record of Fund Accounts, II, 85-87, 370, 570; Table of Sales, Fort Wayne.

⁶⁷Ibid.



This tremendous record was due to prompt action in placing recently ceded Indian lands on the market as soon as they were surveyed; to the widespread speculation in lands, a result of the construction of the Wabash and Erie Canal through the land district and of the Madison to Michigan City road; and to the general prosperity of the state and nation.

Recently acquired Indian land was placed on the market in 1831, 1832, and in 1835.⁶⁸ This action on the part of the government attracted speculators and settlers in large numbers and helped maintain the high volume of sales throughout the decade.

Other important factors were the construction of the Wabash and Erie Canal and the road from Madison to Michigan City. The canal, when completed, connected the Wabash River with the Maumee River at Fort Wayne and provided a means of cheap transportation of surplus farm products to Lake Erie, while the wagon road provided a similar outlet to Lake Michigan.

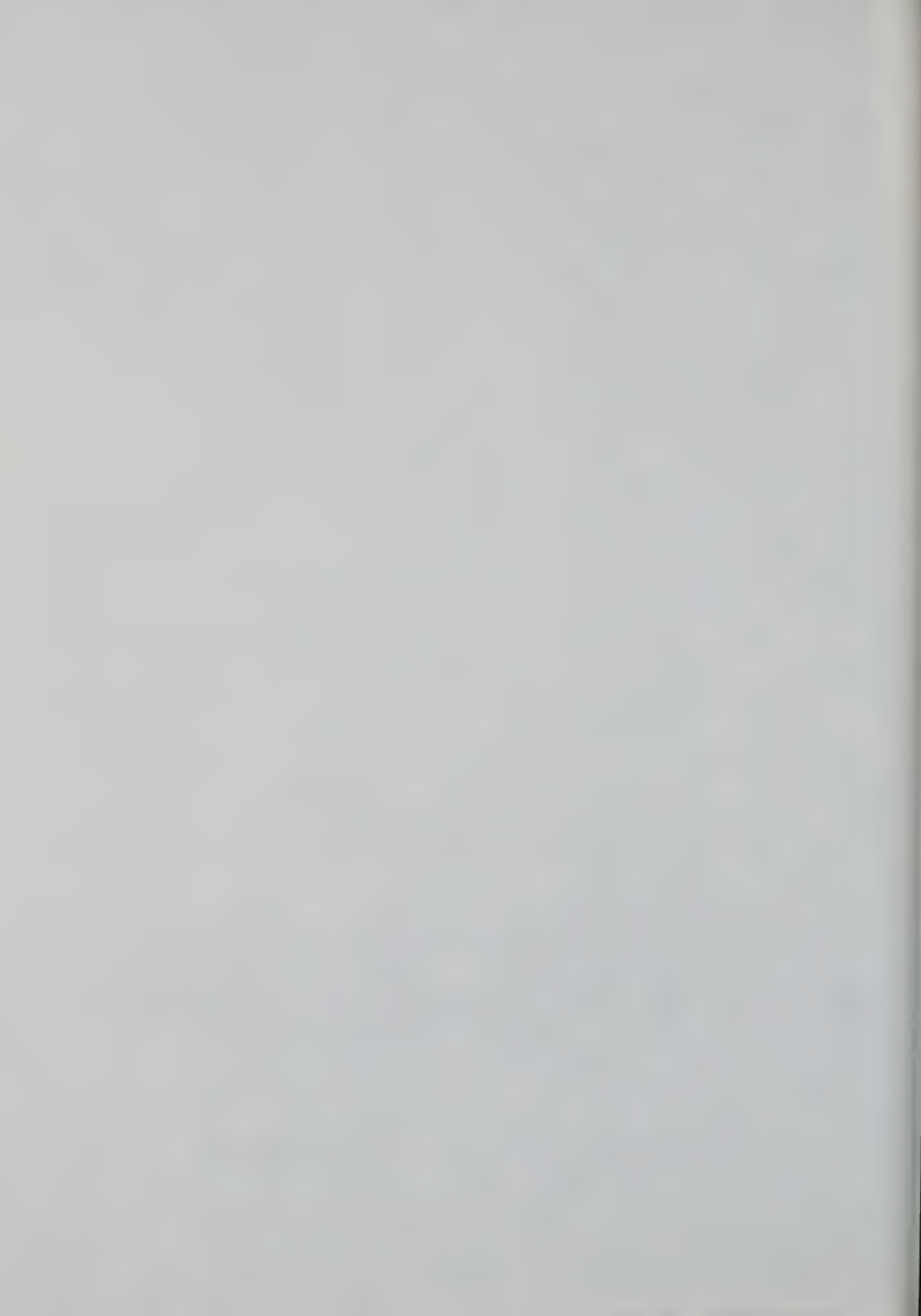
Acreage along the canal and road right-of-way was eagerly sought by settlers and speculators alike, and this stimulated the sale of adjoining lands. Prosperity continued in the district even after the Panic of 1837 due in part to the large sums of money expended on the canal and road for labor and materials.

Virtually all the money received was in cash. Only \$148.01 in land stock⁶⁹ and \$35,431.24⁷⁰ in military land scrip was collected. Receipts from land sales in 1840 totaled \$21,251.33 as compared to \$170,495.23 the

⁶⁸ Senate Executive Documents, 30 Cong., 2 sess., 1848-1849, II, no. 2 (ser. no. 530), 214.

⁶⁹ American State Papers, VII, 326, 327.

⁷⁰ See Table of Sales, Fort Wayne.



previous year, and further dropped in 1843 to \$5,823.97.⁷¹ This slump in sales was due to the virtual exhaustion of good public land in the district as well as to the effects of the Panic of 1837.

When good lands were placed on sale there was always money available to purchase them. This is proved by the rapidity in which the Miami Reserve was sold in 1847, 1848, and 1849. In 1847, the office sold 52,299.51 acres of land and the purchase money totaled \$94,856.23; in 1848, 130,564.80 acres sold for \$234,362.73; and in 1849 purchasers bought 36,260.70 acres of land for which they paid \$67,837.20.⁷²

The Commissioner of the General Land Office, in 1849, summarized the sale and disposition of public lands in the Fort Wayne District through 1848 as follows:⁷³

Area in square miles	5,712.00
Acres surveyed	3,550,109.02
Acres on sale	3,455,933.77
Acres sold	2,953,809.12
Dollars received	\$3,820,414.52
Lands reserved for common schools, acres	102,520.32
Lands granted for roads and canals, acres	153,618.20
Lands granted to individuals, acres	320.00
Mexican Bounty Land Warrants, acres	16,800.00

⁷¹Ibid.

⁷²Ibid.

⁷³Senate Documents, 30 Cong., 2 sess., 1849-1850, II, no. 2 (ser. no. 530), 243.



Lands granted to Indians, acres ⁷⁴	27,025.65
Swamp lands, acres	155,776.00
Lands unsold in district, acres	293,475.59

During its thirty years of existence about 3,510,358.62 acres of land were sold at the office, for which the government received \$4,074,289.32.⁷⁵ Sales after 1849 were negligible; in 1852 the land office was abolished, and the unsold lands attached to the Indianapolis District.

The public domain comprising the Fort Wayne District was almost untouched prior to 1830 and was virtually exhausted by the great land boom period of the 1830's. Speculators and bonafide settlers attracted by the richness of the land and its proximity to the Wabash and Erie Canal and the Michigan City road rushed to buy land in the district. Land sales at the office led the state and nation in 1836.

⁷⁴Robertson and Riker, John Tipton Panarg, I, introduction 17, 18, states that a method had been devised for the passing of Indian lands to the whites without subjecting them to the land laws of the United States. Traders and Indian agents who generally cooperated closely with one another, would include in the Indian treaties provisions authorizing the patenting of certain lands to chiefs, half breeds, or ordinary members of the tribes. These reserves conveyed their rights to traders in payment of real or imaginary debts before the treaty was signed or shortly thereafter. Although presidential approval for such conveyances was necessary in most cases, the approval could be secured easily provided the agents would report that the Indians had received a fair price for their land.

⁷⁵The sales of Indiana lands are summarized in General Land Office, Record of Fund Accounts.

CHAPTER VI

THE LA PORTE-WINAMAC LAND OFFICE

Some citizens of northern Indiana began to work for the establishment of a new land office in northwest Indiana as early as May, 1830,¹ which had the support of Indian agent John Tipton, later Senator Tipton.

Elijah Hayward, Commissioner of the General Land Office, had recommended November 30, 1830² that a new land office be established within the following limits:

... commencing at that point on the Tippecanoe river, where the boundary line established by the treaty of the Wabash October 18, 1826, intersects the river, thence, with said boundary, to its intersection with the range line dividing ranges 7 and 8 east; thence north, to the northern boundary of the state; thence, west, with the line of that northern boundary, to the northeast corner of Illinois, thence south, to a point due west of the first call, and, thence, due east to the place of beginning.

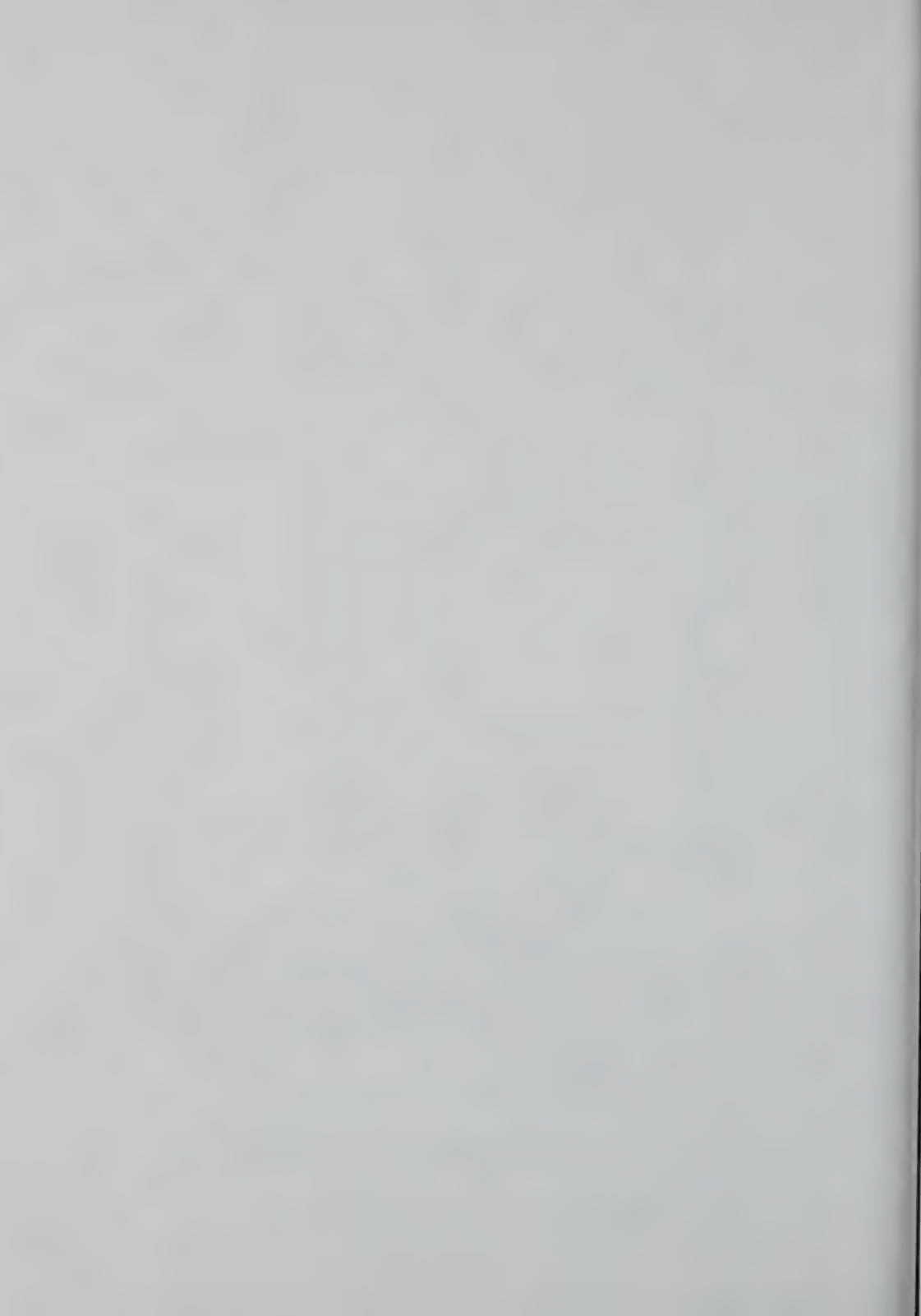
He further recommended that if a new land office were not established that the tract of land ceded by the Pottawatomies September 20, 1828 called the Elkhart country, be annexed to the Fort Wayne District "to accommodate the purchasers of public lands, and to promote the settlement of those sections of the country to which great numbers of emigrants have been directed by that adventurous spirit of enterprize peculiar to those who first open the wilderness."³

The land officers at Fort Wayne opposed the opening of a new land district, and Spencer, the new receiver at Fort Wayne, wrote Tipton in

¹Robertson and Riker, John Tipton Papers, II, 276.

²Executive Documents, 21 Cong., 2 sess., 1830-1831, I, no. 2 (ser. no. 206), 59.

³Ibid.



1832 that he was "fearful that the new office will destroy our office."⁴ When Tipton entered the United States Senate he vigorously backed a bill establishing a new land district in northwest Indiana, and February 3, 1833 reported that a "bill has passed the senate locating the land office at South Bend."⁵

He and the Ewings owned land there and hoped to benefit by the location of a land office at that town. However, the bill, when finally passed March 2, 1833, established the office at La Porte, a few miles southwest of South Bend. Section nine of this measure provided that

... the land district hereinafter created by the tenth section of this act, shall be bounded on the south by the line dividing range 6 and 7, and the lands in said district now in market shall be subject to entry at the land offices at Crawfordsville and Fort Wayne as heretofore, until the 1 st day of July next [1837], and no longer.

Section ten stated

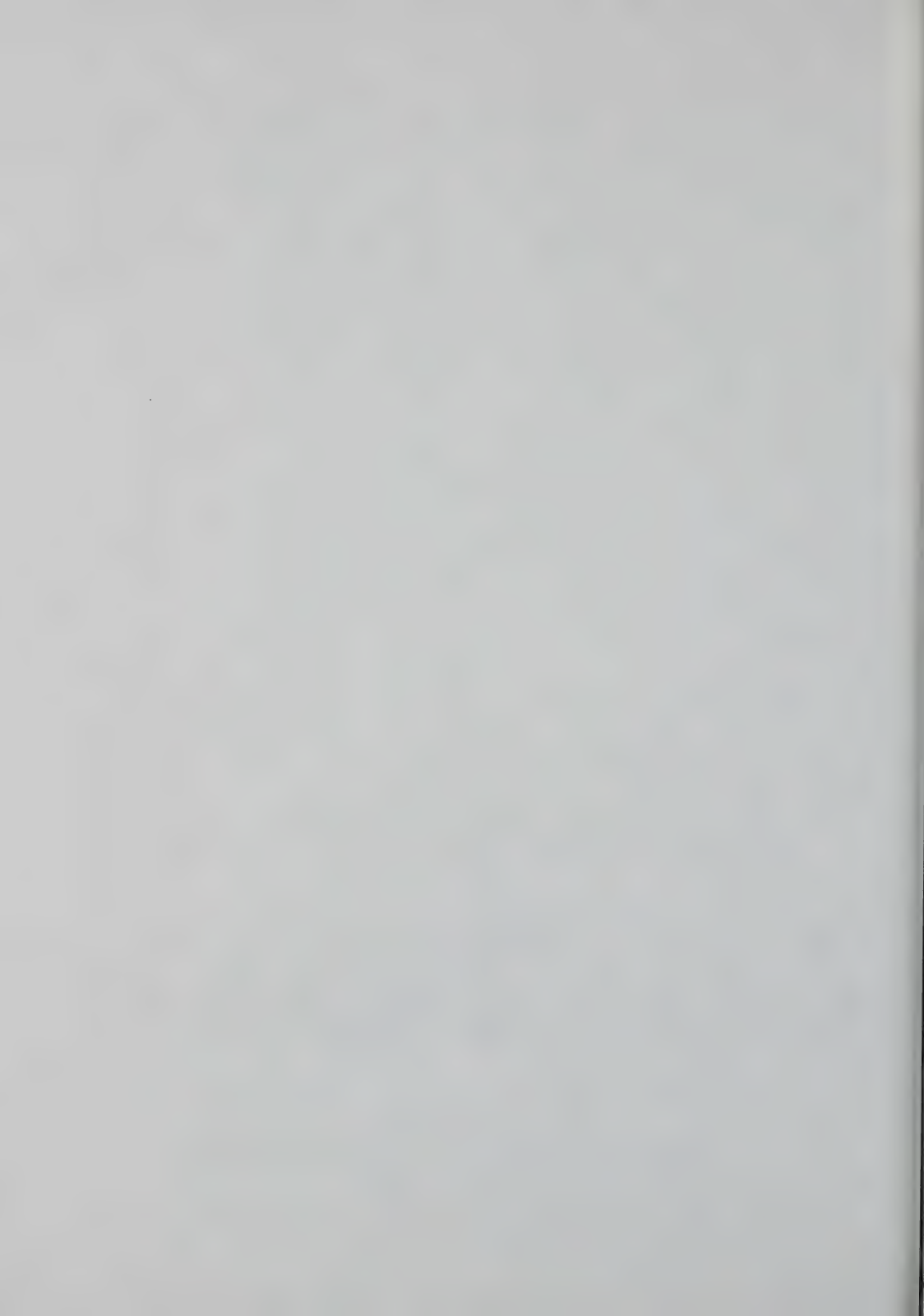
... that all that district of country in the State of Indiana, lying west of the line dividing ranges 7 and 8 east of the second principal meridian, and north of the line dividing townships 24 and 26, shall form a separate land district; and the land office for the sale and disposal of all the public lands in said district, shall be, and hereby is established at La Porte.

Another section provided that the President "whenever in his judgment the public interest and the convenience of the people require it, remove said office to a more central and suitable place in the land district."⁶

⁴Robertson and Eiker, John Tipton Papers, II, 278, 500.

⁵Ibid., 796.

⁶United States Statutes at Large, IV, 653.



Because La Porte was situated in the northwest part of the district, the land office was removed to the newly platted town of Winamac, named after a famous Indian chief, Winamac. The town is on the Tippecanoe River in Pulaski County, and was more nearly centrally located in the land district.

By an Executive Proclamation issued August 14, 1838,⁷ the land office was ordered transferred to Winamac although actual removal was not effected until November, 1839,⁸ as there were no adequate buildings to house the office.

The remainder of the Miami Reserve was acquired in 1840 and on August 8, 1846,⁹ an act was passed for the disposal of the lands in the Miami Reserve. These lands for the purposes of sale were divided among the Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, and Winamac land districts, and the boundaries of each district were changed accordingly.

Under its provisions

... all that tract of land which lies north of the township line dividing townships 23 and 24, and west of the range line dividing ranges 4 and 5 east, and east of the east line of the Crawfordsville land district be attached to and form a part of the Winamac land district.¹⁰

The boundaries of the district were never again changed.

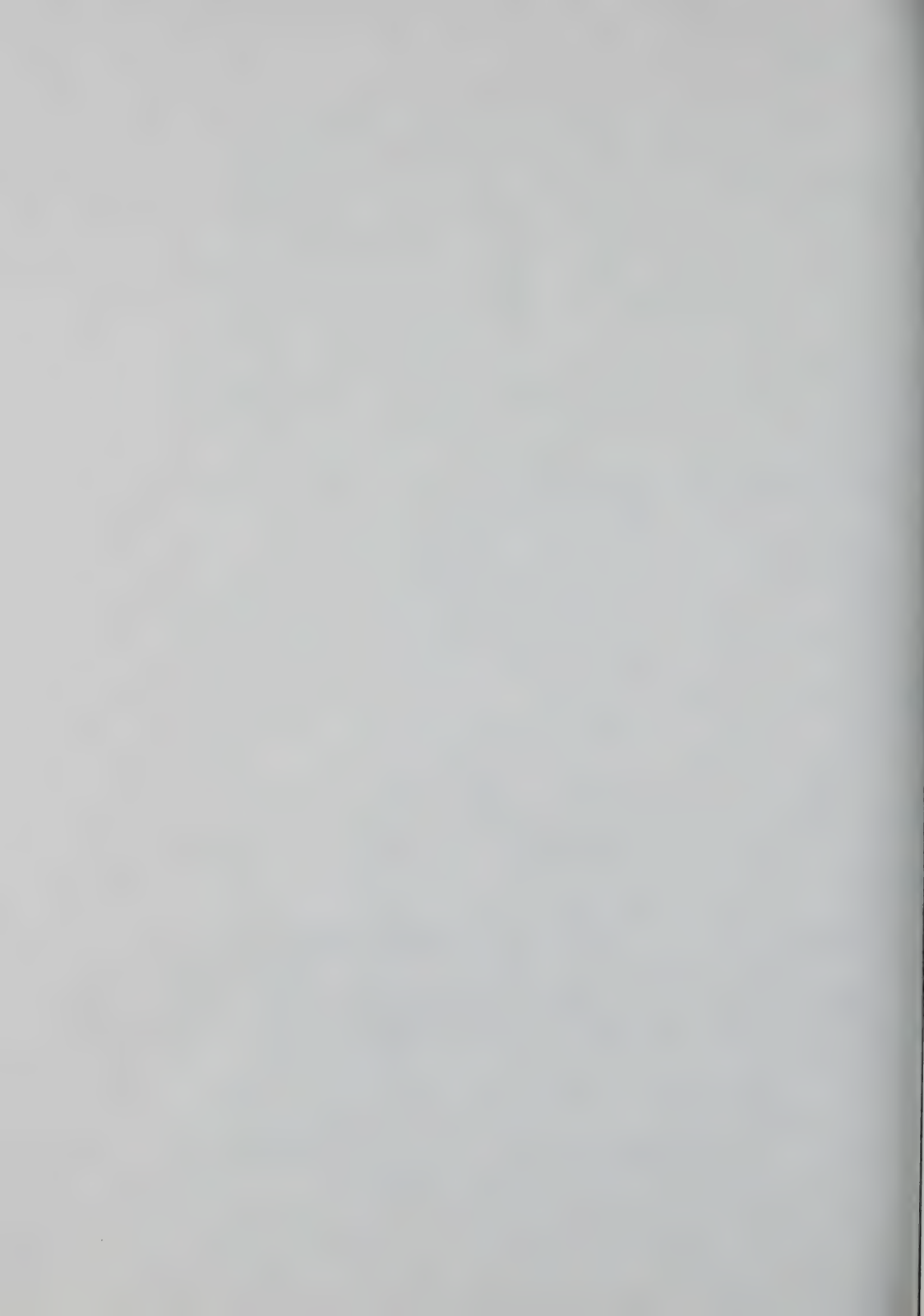
The district is best described as a roughly rectangular area bounded by the Indiana-Illinois state line on the west, south to Raub, Benton County,

⁷General Land Office, Record of Proclamations for Public Land Sales, no. 243.

⁸General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, La Porte-Winamac, Certificates nos. 13114, 13115, dated November 2 and November 25, 1839, respectively.

⁹United States Statutes at Large, IX, 75.

¹⁰Ibid.



east to a point north of Logansport, south to Burlington, east through Kokomo to Greentown, north to Peru on the Wabash River, northeast along that river to the town of Wabash, and north to the Michigan-Indiana state line. These points represented the approximate boundary of the district in its final form.

Lands in the Miami Reserve cession were quickly purchased, and by 1853 there was little choice acreage left in the district. Under an Executive Proclamation of January 25, 1855,¹¹ the office was closed and its removal to Indianapolis effected shortly thereafter.

Other Indian cessions in the district were made at the treaty of the Mississinewa October 16, 1826; the treaty of the Tippecanoe, October 26 and 27, 1832, and the several Miami Reserve cessions made in October 23, 1834, November 6, 1838, and November 28, 1840.¹²

The Mississinewa treaty of 1826 added a narrow strip of land extending east from Lake Michigan to about the Elkhart-LaGrange County line. Part of this land had been previously ceded by the treaty of Chicago in 1821, and it included land between the Eel and Wabash Rivers. After the treaty of the Tippecanoe in 1832 the government added lands lying in northwestern Indiana, or what was then called the Kankakee swamp lands, to the public domain. The Miami Reserve was acquired through treaties concluded with the Miami Indians in 1834, 1838, and 1840.

In the last named treaty, the Miamis were allotted five years to remove from Indiana to the new lands assigned to them by the government,

¹¹General Land Office, Record of Proclamations for Public Land Sales, no. 528.

¹²Royce, Indian Land Cessions in Indiana, 259, 260, 261.

and it was not until 1843 that Arthur E. Van Ness was able to survey lands of the Miami Reserve assigned to the Winamac District.

Other contracts were awarded for the survey of the district in 1828, 1829, 1831, 1833, and 1834. Thomas Brown in 1828 surveyed lands between the El and Wabash Rivers located in Cass County, and other contracts were let to Reuben Dawson, John Hendricks, David Hillis, and Thomas Brown in 1833 for the remainder of the lands in Marshall, Kosciusko, Fulton, and Marshall Counties. The Kankakee swamps covered an area which included portions of Lake, Porter, La Porte, Starke, Pulaski, Jasper, and Newton Counties. This region was surveyed in 1834 by A. Burnside, S. Sibley, William Clark, Veremiah Smith, Uriah Biggs, A. E. Van Ness and Robert Hanna. Samuel Goodnow, A. W. Morris, and Perin Kent were awarded contracts the same year for measuring lands laying between the south edge of the swamp and the Crawfordsville-Winamac (La Porte) district boundary.¹³

Surveys were especially difficult to run in the Kankakee swamp lands. William Clark, who surveyed a part of La Porte County, wrote that: "The Kankakee River and its branches present the appearance of ponds or lakes rather than running streams, and are inaccessible in almost every place. There are many places near the shores where the weight of a man will shake the marshes for acres together."¹⁴

Samuel Goodnow, surveyor of the marsh along the south edge of Beaver Lake, reported:

¹³Land Surveys, State Geological Report, 1882, cited in Esarey, History of Indiana, I, 393.

¹⁴George R. Wilson, "Early Indiana Trails and Surveys," Indiana Historical Publications, VI, no. 3, 446.

A great portion of this township is not prairie, or in other words entirely a marsh. There is a small portion of timber growing along the margin of the Kankakee river; the whole township bears the aspect of that of the surrounding country, alike intersected with sand ridges which are dry, and denotes a country destitute of any inducement to invite the emigrant to locate there. The marshes are principally covered with alder and wild rice. The timber upon the sand ridge before mentioned is black and white oak, and some underbrush; that along the river, birch maple, swamp ash and some willow. In many places it is difficult to tell where the bed of the Kankakee river is placed. Such is the unfavorable aspect of the country that I cannot in Justice give a more flattering character and keep within bounds of all matters pertaining to facts.¹⁵

Few acres of the marsh were sold; later the United States Government, under authority of the several swamp land acts, ceded them to the State of Indiana.

Public land was first placed on sale in the new district on August 12, 1833¹⁶ by the land officers David Robb and John Lemon, register and receiver respectively. Robb was born in Ireland in 1771, his parents emigrated to the United States in 1773, and he joined them in 1776. The family first lived in Pennsylvania; in 1786 they removed to Kentucky; and in 1800, as a young man, Robb settled near Hazelton, Gibson County, Indiana.¹⁷

He was a surveyor, a farmer, and a member of the territorial legislature and the first constitutional convention. During the Indian campaign of 1811 Robb captained a company of territorial militia which participated in the battle of the Tippecanoe. After the war he again engaged in politics,

¹⁵Ibid.

¹⁶General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, La Porte-Winamac, Cash Receipt no. 1.

¹⁷Gil R. Stormont, History of Gibson County, Indiana, (Indianapolis, 1914), 41, 42.

representing Gibson County in the Indiana House of Representatives in 1823 and as a State Senator in 1832,¹⁸ prior to his appointment as register of the land office at La Porte. His commission was confirmed March 2, 1833,¹⁹ and he served in that capacity until March 1, 1837.²⁰ He died in 1844.²¹

Robb was succeeded as register by Edward A. Hannegan, who took office April 26, 1837 and held it until his resignation about July 31, 1840.²² Hannegan was born in 1807 in Hamilton County, Ohio and lived for a time in Kentucky before coming to Indiana. He was in the Indiana State Legislature in 1832-1833, a member of the House of Representatives at Washington from 1833 until 1837, and United States Senator from 1843 to 1849. He died in 1859. Both he and Robb were friends of Tipton,²³ and it was during his tenure that the land office was moved from La Porte to Winamac.

Hannegan's unsuccessful attempts to live off of his salary as a register was at least one reason for his resignation. He wrote Tipton on May 26, 1838 that

¹⁸Robertson and Riker, John Tipton Papers, I, 74; II, 681, note 67.

¹⁹Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 22 Cong., 2 sess., IV, 333.

²⁰General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, La Porte-Winamac, Cash Receipt no. 10360.

²¹Storment, History of Gibson County, Indiana, 42.

²²Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 26 Cong., 1 sess., V, 20, 24; General Land Office, Land Entry papers, La Porte-Winamac, Cash Receipts nos. 10361, 10353.

²³Robertson and Riker, John Tipton Papers, II, 462, note 27.

... by referring to the returns from this office made to the commissioner you will find that my per centage in my office will not average twenty five dollars a month since the first day of last October, the salary payable quarterly only exceeds by \$12 a month the amount of my check here for one clerk whom as I cannot live without practising law I am compelled to keep."

Upon Hannegan's resignation, John Gardner, formerly of Newport, and later a resident of Winamac, was appointed register and served until his removal, May 1, 1849.²⁵

Upon Gardner's removal, Daniel Sigler, a Whig, received a temporary appointment as register and entered office May 2, 1849.²⁶ A permanent commission was given him effective October 2, 1850. Sigler resided in Putnam County near the National Road. In the previous election for state senator, the Democrats had carried the Winamac district by 12 votes, and it was hoped that Sigler could organize the district so that the August, 1849 election for state senator would result in the retirement of United States Senator Jesso D. Bright from Congress.²⁷ Sigler resigned January 1, 1853 because of "private business at a distance from the office."²⁸

Captain David A. Farley, of Greencastle, and John Gardner, the former register, sought the appointment upon Sigler's resignation. Farley

²⁴Ibid., III, 632-633.

²⁵Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 26 Cong., 1 sess., I, 27-41; General Land Office, Commissions, I, 10; General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Winamac, Cash Receipt no. 19213.

²⁶General Land Office, Commissions, Notice to Receivers of Appointments, I, 332; Winamac Cash Receipt no. 1925.

²⁷Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Files, Winamac, 1849.

²⁸Ibid., 1852, which contains Sigler's letter of resignation addressed to President Fillmore, dated December 14, 1852.

was appointed, although his nomination caused a division in the Senate when it was first presented, as Farley was not a resident of the land district.²⁹

Farley was born at Bedford, Oldham County, Kentucky, in 1820 and in early life settled near Greencastle, Indiana. He was a poor man and was employed as clerk in the rutnam County Auditor's Office. Farley enrolled as a first lieutenant in the Indiana infantry June 17, 1846 and saw service in Mexico. He was mustered out of the army at New Orleans in 1847 with the rank of captain. Farley then returned to Indiana, settled near Crawfordsville, and was in residence there at the time of his appointment as register at Winamac.³⁰ He served from April 25, 1853 to the closing of the land office January 30, 1855.³¹ Later he lived at Kokomo and Chicago, dying in the latter place in 1909.³²

John M. Lemon and Abner McCarty were both nominated to the office of receiver of public moneys at La Porte March 2, 1833. McCarty was rejected and Lemon received the appointment.³³ McCarty was later made

²⁹Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 32 Cong., 2 sess., IX, 11, 81.

³⁰Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Files, Winamac, 1852, see Veterans Bureau Pension files, Mexican War, Captain David A. Farley.

³¹General Land Office, Land Entry Papers; the last Winamac Cash Receipt (no. 21944) is dated January 30, 1855.

³²Veterans Bureau, Pension files, Mexican War, Captain David A. Farley.

³³Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 25 Cong., 2 sess., IV, 620.

receiver at the Indianapolis Land Office.³⁴ Lemon served until the expiration of his commission in 1837.³⁵ He was a resident of Clark County and had served in the legislature first as representative, 1825-1829; senator, 1829-1832; and was defeated in 1832. Lemon's appointment was one of the successes scored by Tipton in his political feud with the Ewings and McCartys.³⁶

Doctor Jesse Jackson, a partner in Tipton's land speculations, was appointed receiver to succeed Lemon. He assumed office April 26, 1837 and served until his death, which probably occurred September 21, 1840.³⁷

Jackson was elected enrolling clerk of the State House of Representatives in 1830 and 1832.³⁸ He was one of a group of men who platted the town site of Winamac and, while Tipton's name does not appear, it is evident that he was financially interested. John J. Douglas wrote to Tipton that a company had been organized to secure the Winamac town site lands and thus the company included; "yourself Wm. Polke Jesse Jackson and myself and John Pearson."³⁹ He desired that the removal of the land office to

³⁴Ibid.

³⁵Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 25 Cong., 2 sess., IV, 620.

³⁶Robertson and Riker, John Tipton Papers, II, 630.

³⁷Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 25 Cong., 2 sess., IV, 621; Ibid., 26 Cong., 2 sess., V, 311; Winamac Land Entry Papers, Receipts nos. 13394, 14315.

³⁸Robertson and Riker, John Tipton Papers, II, 377, 725, 728.

³⁹Ibid., II, 643 and note 77.

Winamac be effected by August 1, 1838⁴⁰ which, however, was first set for August 14, 1838,⁴¹ and later postponed until October 7, 1839.⁴²

The building in which the land office was located at Winamac is described as "a log building designed, at first, for a Court House to be wholly occupied by the county officials and the land officers."⁴³

Upon Jackson's death, James H. Elliott was appointed receiver and served from December 3, 1840 until his removal in July, 1841.⁴⁴ Elliott was a Democrat and when Harrison won the presidential election, he was removed to make room for a Whig appointee, Jeremiah Grover.⁴⁵ Grover assumed office August 17, 1841 and served until the expiration of his commission, July 5, 1845.⁴⁶

Amizi L. Wheeler, a Democrat, succeeded Grover as receiver, but resigned the office after Taylor's election to the Presidency. He had taken a leading part in the presidential election in Pulaski County, and

⁴⁰Ibid.

⁴¹General Land Office Records, Executive Proclamation, 243.

⁴²Ibid., 249; General Land Office, Letters Sent to Registers and Receivers, New series, I, 117, 1.

⁴³F. A. Battey and Co. (pub.), History of White and Pulaski County, (Chicago, 1883), 460.

⁴⁴Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 26 Cong., 2 sess., V, 322; Winamac Land Entry Papers, Cash Receipts. nos. 13394, 14315.

⁴⁵Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 27 Cong., 1 sess., V, 395-402.

⁴⁶Ibid., 402; General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Winamac, Cash receipt no. 14316, no. 16135.

Whig politicians charged that he was "a violent Loco Foco partisan, and did most of the land office business by proxy."⁴⁷

He was replaced by a Whig, Rufus Hewitt, in 1849, who remained until the expiration of his commission, January 26, 1853.⁴⁸ William Patterson, the last receiver appointed to the Winamac Land Office,⁴⁹ entered on his duties April 25, 1853 and continued in office until the land district was abolished. The last sale was made January 30, 1855.⁵⁰

The La Porte-Winamac Land District was created in part from the Crawfordsville and Fort Wayne Land Districts,⁵¹ and 696,814.73 acres had been offered for sale in these districts before the land office was established. These sales had been held in 1824, 1830, 1831 and 1832. The remainder of the lands in the La Porte-Winamac District were exposed to sale in the years 1835, 1837, 1838, 1839, 1841, and 1846. Of the lands placed on sale before the opening of the land office in 1833, 512,359.56 acres had ⁵² already been sold.

⁴⁷Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Files, Winamac, 1849; Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 29 Cong., 1 sess., VII, 19, 56.

⁴⁸Journal of the Executive Proceedings of the Senate, 31 Cong., 1 sess., VIII, 23, 47.

⁴⁹Ibid., 33 Cong., 2 sess., IX, 78, 81.

⁵⁰General Land Office, Land Entry Papers, Receipts nos. 20979, 21944.

⁵¹See above, pages 53, 84.

⁵²Senate Documents, 30 Cong., 2 sess., 1848-1849, II, no. 2 (ser. no. 530), 196.

There were many squatters in the district, and they early exercised their rights of preemption. The first entry at La Porte was made by Abel Burlingame, of Putnam County, Indiana, who on August 14, 1833 purchased 50.3 acres of land at \$1.25 per acre.

From the opening of the office until December 31, 1833,⁵³ 24,371.66 acres of land were sold and receipts totaled \$30,500.66. The office was opened at the beginning of the wild speculation in lands lying adjacent to both the Wabash and Erie Canal and the Michigan City Road in the district, and the volume of sales increased very rapidly. The land boom reached its height in 1835 and, except for a brief period of activity in 1847-1848 when the Miami Reserve lands were placed on sale, average annual purchases after 1840 totaled about 23,000 acres.

The following table shows acres sold and purchase money received during the period 1834-1840:⁵⁴

<u>Date</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Purchase Money</u>
1834	86,709.73	\$107,350.50
1835	474,494.66	673,217.83
1836	470,290.70	589,732.63
1837	113,489.70	143,398.97
1838	73,609.13	98,444.12
1839	87,596.75	109,911.42
1840	19,991.09	24,998.86
1847	54,967.97	83,494.88
1848	107,411.87	193,608.28

From the opening of the office until 1845, 1,943,928.22 acres of land had been sold; \$1,889,524.01 had been received as purchase money; and \$49,082.46 had been paid out in salaries and fees for land officers.⁵⁵

⁵³See Table of Sales for La Porte-Winamac in Appendix.

⁵⁴Ibid.

⁵⁵General Land Office, Statement of Fund Accounts, IV, 352-364.

The purchase money included \$200.00 worth of land scrip and military bounty land scrip valued at \$17,908.73.⁵⁶

The Commissioner of the General Land Office in 1849 summarized the disposition of lands in the Winamac Land District as follows:⁵⁷

Area, in square miles	6,374.00
Area, acres	4,079,445.37
Surveyed, Acres	4,079,445.37
Proclaimed for sale, acres	4,053,969.02
Land reserved for Michigan Road, acres	28,800.00
Land sold, acres	1,758,098.62
Proceeds of land sales, dollars	\$2,340,948.17
Acres reserved for common school lands	117,326.93
Selected land approved for roads and canals, acres	413,633.50
Indian reserved lands, acres	87,092.19
Area of swamp lands, acres	729,610.00
Total land remaining unsold, acres and unappropriated	1,648,594.08

He also reported that there were 931,062 acres of swamp land in the State of Indiana in 1849, of which 729,610 acres were located in the Winamac District.⁵⁸ A small amount of this land was sold under the Graduated Land Act of 1855, but most of it was given to the State of Indiana under authority of the several swamp land acts. The state realized very little from the sale

⁵⁶See Table of Sales in Appendix.

⁵⁷Senate Documents, 30 Cong., 2 sess., 1849-1850, II, no. 2 (ser. no. 530), 243.

⁵⁸Ibid.

of these lands. Much of it was practically given away under the dike and drainage acts and fraudulently alienated by Swamp Land Commissioners. By authority of the Graduated Land Act, 635.25 acres of land were sold at one dollar per acre and 3,539.20 acres were sold at seventy-five cents an acre⁵⁹ just prior to the closing of the office in 1855.

⁵⁹ Executive Documents, 34 Cong., 1 sess., 1855-1856, I, no. 1 (ser. no. 840), 166-167.

SUMMARY

Thus, by 1860 practically all of Indiana's 35,910 square miles of land surface had passed into the hands of the settler or to the state. Although land office appointees were often political hacks and corrupt, the fact that sales progressed so well in Indiana is a tribute to the American land system, which is based on the Ordinance of May 20, 1785. The system itself was largely perfected in Indiana although it has been modified from time to time as the condition and the wants of the people required. All public lands, before they were placed on sale, were accurately surveyed and divided into townships, sections, half sections, quarter sections, and even 40-acre lots by practical surveyors.

After they had been proclaimed for sale by the President they were offered at public auction. These sales took place at centrally located points and on widely publicised dates. As only a small portion of the lands offered were disposed of at the public auctions, later buyers had the opportunity of selecting and purchasing at private sale any remaining land.

The Commissioner of the General Land Office in 1849 wrote that:

The security of the titles under this system [of surveys] has greatly contributed to the rapid settlement of the public lands. The position of all tracts are shown by the surveys, and although the monuments may disappear they can still be determined with accuracy. In deeding these lands to purchasers, the brief designation by the number of lot, or its position in the section, with the number of the section, township, and range, will as fully and certainly convey the title as could be done by the most critical detail of boundaries, and description of courses and lands.¹

¹Senate Documents, 31 Cong., 1 sess., 1849-1850, II, no. 1 (ser. no. 550), 19.

Under this system of survey and sale the land of Indiana passed from the hands of the government into that of the citizen. In the short space of fifty years Indiana was transformed from a wilderness into cultivated farms and flourishing cities.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BIBLIOGRAPHY

I. Manuscripts

All manuscript material cited below is in the custody of the National Archives, Washington, D. C. In general, records of the General Land Office herein described date from 1812 to 1876.

General Land Office, Miscellaneous Letters Sent. These volumes contain longhand copies of letters sent by the Commissioner of the General Land Office to individuals, companies, and even to other government offices relating to the public lands.

Records of the Department of the Interior, General Land Office, Letters (Miscellaneous) Received. The correspondence of the General Land Office prior to 1849 is divided into miscellaneous letters received and letters received from registers and receivers of the several land offices of the United States. In 1849 the General Land Office became a part of the newly created Department of the Interior (Home Affairs), and all correspondence received by the General Land Office was assigned a letter to designate the year and each incoming piece of mail was consecutively numbered.

General Land Office, Letters Sent to Registers and Receivers. A multi-volume series containing longhand copies of letters sent by the Commissioner of the General Land Office to the Registers and Receivers of the numerous land offices in the United States relating to land problems.

General Land Office, Letters Received from Registers and Receivers. As the title indicates this is a collection of letters received by the Commissioner of the General Land Office from the Registers and Receivers of the land districts of the United States relating to problems of administration of land offices in the several land districts. Letters received prior to 1850 are arranged by state and thereunder by land office. New filing procedures were adopted in July, 1849, and after that date all letters received were placed in a general file after being assigned a letter and a serial number. An elaborate system of registers and indices were maintained to facilitate location of previous correspondence.

General Land Office, Letters Received by the Surveyor General of the Northwest. Until about the year 1838 the Surveyor Generals were virtually independent of the Commissioner of the General Land Office

and in early years they reported only to the Secretary of the Treasury.

The correspondence of the several Surveyor Generals received by the Commissioner of the General Land Office was usually segregated from all routine correspondence and bound in volumes. For instance, mail received from the Surveyor General of the Northwest is bound chronologically into a series of volumes entitled Letters Received from the Surveyor General of the Northwest and like series exist for other survey districts up to about 1849.

General Land Office, Abstracts. In these volumes were entered a description of the daily land sales made by the officers of the Land Districts. They are arranged by state and land district and are grouped chronologically.

General Land Office, Bonds. These volumes contain copies of the bonds required of all Registers and Receivers before entering upon the duties of the office. About 1840, a large number of them were bound into several volumes with little regard to chronology. They are not indexed, neither are there any page numbers.

General Land Office, Land Entry Papers. The purchaser of government land was first required to go before the Register of a Land Office and declare his intention of entering a designated lot of land. The Register, after ascertaining that the land was vacant, issued the buyer a certificate containing a description of the land and the purchase price, which the purchaser took to the Receiver of the Land Office, who, upon being paid for the land, issued the buyer a receipt for the money. These two receipts were made in duplicate, one retained by the purchaser and the other forwarded to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, Washington, D. C., and in due course a patent was issued to the buyer of the land. These receipts and related papers constitute the Land Entry Papers. Both receipts were given the same number and filed with like papers of the land district. Land Entry Papers are filed consecutively within the land office and the records of all the offices of a state are grouped together.

General Land Office, Notices to Registers of Appointments. These are copies of the form letters sent to registers notifying them of their appointments. These forms were arranged chronologically and bound into volumes. When this system was first initiated in 1840 notifications sent to Registers and Receivers were bound together. Later notifications to Registers were separated from those of Receiver and each placed in separate volumes.

General Land Office, Notices to Receivers of Appointment. (See no. 9).

General Land Office, Record of Proclamations for Public Land Sales. Early

land sales were first approved by Congress and proclaimed for sale by the President. Later this system was changed and the Commissioner of the General Land Office was authorized to proclaim sales after the President's consent had been obtained. The proclamations are numbered consecutively and contain the date and description of the land placed on sale.

General Land Office, Record of 3 and 5 per cent Fund Accounts. When Indiana was admitted to the Union, in lieu of state taxation of public lands, the Federal Government consented to allot five per cent of the net proceeds of the sale of Indiana public lands to the building of roads. Two per cent of this fund was earmarked by the Government to help build roads leading into the state and the remaining three per cent was allotted to the state road fund. These volumes contain statements of the quarterly and annual sales of land in the several land districts of states granted this privilege.

General Land Office, Statement of Fund Accounts. These volumes represent a similar type of bookkeeping at a later period.

Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Appointment Files. This file contains fairly complete dossiers on persons who applied to the President or to the Secretary of the Interior for positions as land officers. Each person desiring an appointment submitted his application endorsed by members of the Congressional delegations and other prominent men of the state. These endorsements and letters usually gave the applicant's political belief, a short sketch of his life, and reasons why he should be appointed. Letters in opposition, also found in the same files, are usually franker in their expressions of antipathy for the applicant. The records are arranged by state, land district and year. They start with the year 1849, although earlier material has been incorporated into some of these files.

Records of the Department of State, Appointment Files. This is a series of documents containing information similar to that in Records of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior, but as far as land office appointments are concerned only for the period 1800-1820. Much of the material pertaining to Indiana has been printed in Carter's Territorial Papers. Similar documents for the period 1820-1849 must have existed at one time, but all efforts to locate the material have been futile.

Records of the United States Senate, Senate Miscellaneous Papers, Report of the Committee on Public Lands, 22B-A3. These papers accompanied reports of the Senate Committee on Public Lands.

Records of the Department of the Treasury, Letters Received from United States Attorneys, Clerks, and Marshalls. As the title indicates,

these letters were received from Federal officials sworn to protect the interests of the United States from the misdeeds of some of its citizens.

Records of the Solicitor of the Treasury contained in the Department of Justice Transmittal 4122. Documents relating to suits brought by the United States to recover property illegally taken from the Federal Government.

Records of the Veterans Administration, Papers relating to Military Bounty Land Warrants. The Veterans Bureau was created by Congress to investigate, in cooperation with the Army and Navy, all claims presented by veterans of military and naval service or of their dependents. Papers relating to grants of public land made to service men under the several acts of Congress are among these records, and Bounty Land Warrant Papers and Pension Files are the best known sources of information on individuals in the federal military and naval service.

Records of the Veterans Administration, Pension files of widows of men who fought in the wars of the United States. These records are similar to those described above and contain in some instances identical information.

II. Government Publications

The American State Papers, Public Lands, (8 volumes, 1832-1861, Washington, D. C.), published by Gales and Seaton. These volumes contain documents concerning the official acts of the United States relating to its land policy. Documents printed in the series date back before the formation of the Federal Government in 1789, and the period covered by the publications extend to 1837. From 1823 to 1837 the material is duplicated in the Document Series.

The Journal of The Executive Proceedings of the Senate, (32 volumes, 1828-1909); the citations include volumes III to 14, covering the period 1815-1876. These volumes are a printed form of original documents supporting nominations submitted to that body by the President of the United States and also of the actions taken in these deliberations. A nomination, when placed before the Senate, contains the full name of the nominee, the position, the name of the person being replaced, a brief statement of the reason for replacement--i. e., deceased, resigned, or removed--and the date of the applicant's commission.

House, Senate, and Executive Documents, 1823-1949, (period used, 1823-1861); Senate, House, and Executive documents containing reports submitted to Congress by government agencies, congressional committees, and the President of the United States. For convenience, serial numbers of volumes containing material used in this thesis are listed below:-

<u>Date</u>	<u>Serial no.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Serial no.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Serial no.</u>
1826	145	1838	345	1850	588
1827	163	1839	355	1851	613
1828	181	1840	383	1852	638
1829	192		401		690
1830	203	1841	416	1853	710
1831	216	1842	419	1854	777
1832	233	1843	432	1855	840
1833	238	1844	463	1856	893
1834	266	1845	472	1857	942
1835	279	1846	493	1858	997
1836	301	1847	504	1859	1023
	303	1848	530	1860	1078
1837	322	1849	550	1861	1117
			554		

C. C. Royce, Cession of Land by Indian Tribes to the United States as illustrated by Cases in the State of Indiana, Annual report of the Bureau of Ethnology, 1877-1880, Washington, 1881. A scholarly study of the many conflicting Indian land cessions made in Indiana written by a government official employed at the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D. C.

The United States Statutes at Large, 1789-1873 (17 vols. Comp. and ed. by Richard Peters Esq., and George Minot, Charles M. Little and James C. Brown, Boston, 1845-1873. An indexed compilation of the acts of Congress from 1789-1873.

Clarence E. Carter, (ed.), The Territorial Papers of the United States, (14 vols., Vols. VII and VIII, Indiana Territory, 1800-1816, Washington, 1939). Selected documents, most of which are in the National Archives, pertaining to the official history of Indiana Territory, 1800-1816.

Thomas Donaldson, The Public Domain, Washington, 1883. This work was originally prepared at the direction of the House of Representatives by the Public Land Commission's Committee on Codification of public land laws under acts of Congress approved March 3, 1879 and June 16, 1880. The material was assembled under the direction of Thomas Donaldson, a member of this Committee, and later revised to include data and regulations relating to the public domain up to December 1, 1883.

Charles J. Kappler (comp. and ed.), Indian Affairs, Laws and Treaties in Senate Documents, 53 Cong., 2 sess., 1903-1904, 4619 (2 ed. 2 vols., (ser. no. 3) 4623 and 4624). This compilation was undertaken at the direction of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. Statutes, treaties, and laws relating to the Indians are presented in full, and each is summarized.

III. State Government Publications: Indiana

Charles Kettleborough, Constitution Making in Indiana, (3 vols., Indianapolis, 1916-1950), contained in volumes 1, 11, 112, of the Indiana Historical Collections. In these volumes may be found copies of the two state constitutions, a discussion of the steps leading to the calling of the constitutional conventions, comments on the articles of each constitution, and lists of convention members.

Nellie A. Robertson and Dorothy Hiker, (ed.), The John Tipton Papers, (3 vols., Indianapolis, 1942) passim. These volumes are XLIV-XLVI of the Indiana Historical Collections. The John Tipton Papers include the correspondence, reports, speeches and journals of John Tipton, Justice of the Peace, Sheriff, member of the Indiana Legislature, Indiana Commissioner, from 1823-1828, and United States Senator from Indiana between 1831-1832.

IV. Newspaper

Vincennes, Indiana, The Vincennes Western Sun and Advertiser, 1821. At irregular intervals the Secretary of the Treasury authorized the publication of a list of bank notes acceptable as legal tender by the government. Such a list was published in the Western Sun on several occasions in 1821.

V. Secondary Sources.

A. Special works of historical interest:

Logan Esarey, History of Indiana, (2 ed., 2 vols., Indianapolis, 1918). These volumes, when written, were preeminent in the field of Indiana history. Esarey reveals the part a frontier state played in the development of the nation.

Benjamin H. Hibbard, History of the Public Land Policies. An account of the historical development and operations of our Federal land policies.

Francis B. Weitman, Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army, (2 vols., Washington, 1903). This is the unofficial work of an individual, purchased and published under an act of Congress. It contains, in Volume I, an abstract of service of all men who served as officers in the armies of the United States and some biographical data is necessarily included. Volume II contains an alphabetical listing of the names of all officers cited in Volume I, along with the page on which listed.

John S. Higgins, Subdivisions of the Public Lands, (St. Louis, 1887). This little volume is a surveyor's handbook, written and published by a practical surveyor. By diagrams, illustrations, and maps, Higgins teaches the art of practical surveying as developed by government surveyors under the direction of the several Surveyor Generals and the Commissioners of the General Land Office.

Dwight G. McCarty, The Territorial Governors of the Old Northwest, (Iowa City, Iowa, 1910). The book is not a detailed history, but rather a series of biographies of the territorial governors and the part played by them in the development of political institutions in the Northwest.

George R. Wilson, Early Indiana Trails and Surveys, (Vol. VI, Part 3, Indianapolis, 1919). This volume is in the Indiana Historical Collections. The writer of this interesting and colorful work was an "ex-county surveyor of Dubois County and author of History of Dubois County." It has been his duty to re-survey some of the lands described in this volume. He has endeavored to trace old Indian trails and describe early surveys by the use of records of the land department of the State Auditor's office.

William Wesley Woolen, Biographical and Historical Sketches of Early Indiana, (Indianapolis, 1883). Good for biographies of men prominent in early Indiana history.

B. County Histories:

The following Indiana county histories have been found useful as sources of local color and biographical sketches. However, data contained in these histories are not always reliable:

Frederick I. Borrow, History of Fayette County, (Indianapolis, 1917).

A. A. Battery and Co., (Pub.), History of White and Pulaski County, (Chicago, 1883).

A. W. Bowen and Co., (Pub.), History of Montgomery County, (2 vols., Indianapolis, 1913).

George E. Greene, History of Old Vincennes and Knox County, Indiana, (2 vols., Chicago, 1911).

August J. Palfel, History of Franklin County, Indiana, (Indianapolis, 1915).

Archibald Shaw, (ed.), History of Dearborn County, (Indianapolis, 1915).

Gil R. Stornant, History of Gibson County, Indiana (Indianapolis, 1914).

APPENDIX

VINCENT'S LAND OFFICE

Table of Sales

Date	Acres	Purchase Money	Lands Reverted	Forfeited Land Stock Issued	Received	Military Bounty Land Warrants
1807-1808	22,950.90	114,560.49				
1808-1809	16,701.63	17,702.72				
1809-1810	11,715.21	23,430.42				
1810-1811	14,637.99	29,275.93				
1811-1812	13,618.54	27,237.03	320			
1813	13,366.31	26,732.62	16,365.03			
1813-1814	48,840.41	98,020.92	5,733.48			
1814-1815	53,236.49	106,472.98	4,436.11			
1816-1817	325,361.37	601,302.60	21,975.51			
1817	286,558.36	570,932.52	16,629.97			
1818	297,056.19	599,370.17	8,329.86			
1818-1819	214,415.47	428,830.94	11,487.61			
1819	142,602.06	285,204.12	7,929.46			
1820	11,869.84	23,739.68	3,325.60			
1820	7,603.23					
1821	23,045.92	29,234.05	32,486.45			
1822	15,777.20	19,721.62	76,297.44			
1823	10,725.79					
1824	12,283.52	22,332.32				
1825	13,368.04	16,710.14				
1826	13,154.65	18,855.65				
1827	14,017.71	17,522.18				

Vincennes Table of Sales. (Continued)

Date	Acres	Purchase Money	Lands Reverted	Forfeited Land Stock		Military Bounty L. Warrant
				Issued	Received	
1828	18,401.04	223,001.36		93,586.00	57,804.97	
1829	26,495.34	28,473.95		9,010.64	13,035.95	
1830	31,441.56	39,329.60		3,832.02	8,660.31	
1831	73,639.12	92,558.61		3,729.60	826.64	425.00
1832	62,606.06	78,253.94		2,134.13	4,609.55	125.00
1833	66,832.94	83,545.43		3,450.26		600.00
1834	56,765.80	70,957.65				50.00
1835	135,002.65	163,769.86		704.07		
1836	535,290.41	669,145.61		523.92		2,750.00
1837	335,918.52	419,937.16		563.07		2,979.16
1838	176,075.21	220,095.15		80.00		400.00
1839	238,659.59	298,406.78				1,475.82
1840	52,564.49	65,705.42			479.04	200.00
1841	24,146.06	30,182.42			84.80	100.00
1842	15,125.33	18,906.63				138.96
1843	17,033.25	21,291.52			136.00	300.00
1844	40,137.29	50,171.59				80.00
1845	11,632.31	14,542.39				
1846	22,937.12	28,675.15				
1847	7,590.65	46,996.92				
1848	35,853.50	44,816.96				

Vincennes Table of Sales (Continued)

Date	Acres	Purchase Money	Lands Reverted	Forfeited Land Stock		Military Bounty Land Warrants
				Issued	Received	
1849	30,520.16	338,152.25				
1850	20,575.73	25,725.80				
1851	31,493.27	31,498.00				
1852	11,815.42	15,022.65				
1853	18,278.18	23,847.91				
1854						
1855	15,850.35					
1856						
1857		3,017.47				
1858		280.76				
1859		286.10				
1860		96.81				
1861		100.00				

JEFFERSONVILLE LAND OFFICE

Table of Sales

Date	Acres	Purchase Money	Lands Reverted	Forfeited Land Stock		Military County Land Warrants
				Issued	Received	
1807-1808	32,513.88	\$67,963.91				
1808-1809	23,039.56	46,079.12				
1809-1810	27,252.05	54,504.10				
1810-1811	35,756.00	71,512.00				
1811-1812	35,523.84	71,047.63	472.00			
1812-1813	31,654.53	63,309.06	784.00			
1813-1814	86,733.03	174,007.68	5,657.34			
1814-1815	125,902.69	251,805.38	7,558.99			
1815-1816	261,142.96	522,285.92	13,071.69			
1816-1817	256,350.92	512,701.78	16,397.20			
1817	256,350.92	512,701.78				
1818	180,245.41	360,490.82	8,228.64			
1818-1819	108,736.13	217,472.47	9,630.61			
(1820 (First half Year)	6,359.77	12,719.54	1,120.00			
1820	64,932.12	129,864.44	7,025.96			
(1820 (Second half Year)	39,580.30					
1821	22,972.49					
1822	14,656.73	18,321.66				
1823	5,244.44	17,430.08				
1824	11,813.34	24,789.74				

Jeffersonville Table of Sales (Continued)

Date	Acres	Purchase Money	Lands Reverted	Forfeited Land Stock		Military Bounty Land Warrants
				Issued	Received	
1825	5,943.25	\$ 7,429.03				
1826	10,720.74	\$16,068.42				
1827	14,095.16	17,618.89				
1828	10,486.11	13,071.63		\$2,812.94	\$1,620.53	
1829	20,861.03	55,630.50		8,479.75	13,614.13	
1830	17,716.82	22,146.04		8,885.90	5,849.18	
1831	49,252.37	61,774.94		473.06	4,243.73	\$11,683.75
1832	76,345.36	95,449.69		4,074.65	3,771.47	14,558.65
1833	63,987.06	79,984.21		2,251.69	3,609.51	16,287.33
1834	67,826.11	84,783.24			1,528.21	9,409.53
1835	69,198.40	86,420.61			817.81	1,415.55
1836	287,584.36	359,486.65			479.32	4,180.42
1837	176,057.75	220,139.39			326.37	1,650.00
1838	108,210.27	135,263.47			80.00	581.67
1839	110,254.52	137,822.54				462.50
1840	18,432.43	23,040.55			162.60	542.92
1841	12,058.32	15,072.89			74.75	100.00
1842	7,903.08	9,978.84				
1843	7,621.10	9,526.35			240.66	575.00
1844	25,614.24	32,022.30				580.67
1845	21,600.89	27,001.18				
1846	24,384.64	30,480.80				

Jeffersonville Table of Sales (Continued)

Date	Acres	Purchase Money	Lands Reverted	Forfeited Land Stock		Military County Land Warrants
				Issued	Received	
1847	33,879.89	\$42,372.48				
1848	23,276.61	29,133.04				
1849	22,594.15	28,242.67				
1850	16,729.92	23,425.52				
1851	192,299.32	24,124.16				
1852	9,417.44	11,790.75				
1853	8,247.90	10,309.87				
1854						
1855 and 1856	57.45	26.81				



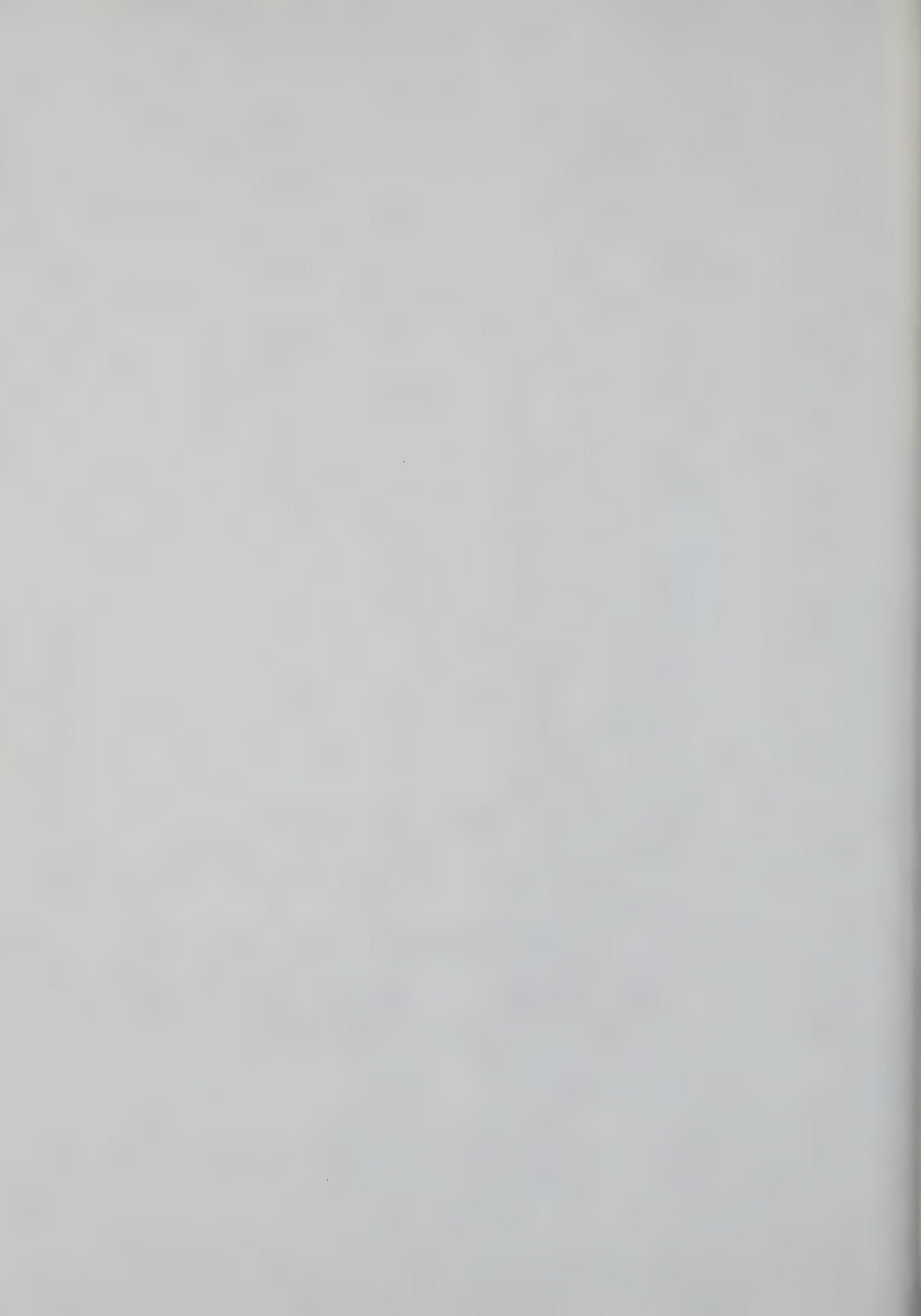
INDIAN TERRRE HAUTE-CRAWFORDSVILLE
LAND OFFICE

Table of Sales

Date	Acres	Purchase Money	Military Bounty Land Warrants	Forfeited Land Stock
1820	18,939.41	\$ 24,715.32		
1821	17,646.33	22,057.92		
1822	73,213.15	43,219.17		
1823	58,722.40	73,403.15		
1824	69,203.40	90,074.01		
1825	86,912.17	108,660.39		
1826	103,106.92	123,883.64		
1827	113,341.85	141,917.79		
1828	153,354.57	191,694.94		\$ 374.41
1829	203,049.48	255,909.61		1,782.94
1830	291,387.89	366,738.92		1,556.61
1831	222,033.47	277,578.55	31,995.00	795.35
1832	184,700.71	230,837.09	22,254.99	
1833	150,912.32	188,640.39	\$ 18,528.94	79.60
1834	161,477.87	201,947.10	550.00	16.22
1835	236,779.08	295,985.18	1,350.00	
1836	359,627.66	449,732.11	31,447.04	
1837	79,790.46	99,745.02	45,575.00	
1838	24,606.22	30,811.73	2,098.70	
1839	29,275.10	36,596.54		79.79
1840	6,286.99	7,918.42		

Terre Haute-Crawfordsville Table of Sales (Continued)

Date	Acres	Purchase Money	Military County Land Warrants	Forfeited Land Stock
1841	2,926.69	\$ 3,658.35		
1842	1,905.05	2,381.31		
1843	2,826.98	3,536.23		
1844	5,784.37	7,230.46	250.00	
1845	15,045.33	13,806.63	1,657.92	
1846	25,497.96	31,872.42		
1847	22,443.71	28,060.16		
1848	10,012.41	12,515.52	125.00	
1849	7,654.24	9,567.77		
1850	18,694.90	10,868.50		
1851	8,212.79	10,268.50		
1852	5,618.64	7,102.05		
1853	11,491.90	14,818.47		



BROOKVILLE-INDIANAPOLIS LAND OFFICE

Table of Sales

Date	Acres	Purchase Money	Military Bounty Land Warrants	Forfeited Land Stock
1820	96,367.08			
1821	200,913.64	\$282,089.53		
1822	149,335.26	191,527.10		
1823	86,619.48	107,997.37		
1824	60,683.23	75,413.03		
1825	52,644.07	72,186.90		
1826	71,081.85	87,842.16		
1827	66,024.24	83,141.45		
1828	67,457.84	84,322.09		
1829	89,861.94	112,327.11		499.27
1830	112,503.89	140,629.58		1,873.69
1831	156,815.68	196,020.22	59,447.04	27.30
1832	163,964.33	204,958.42	94,686.41	318.20
1833	185,965.06	232,581.07	102,767.52	160.00
1834	204,526.63	255,657.58	46,117.09	
1835	274,692.05	343,368.36	22,749.35	79.61
1836	298,194.00	372,778.14	70,262.23	351.00
1837	51,805.54	65,216.11	1,175.00	
1838	11,475.14	14,493.94	700.00	
1839	16,570.27	20,766.44	100.00	
1840	4,592.45	5,740.57		

Brookville-Indianapolis Table of Sales (Continued)

Date	Acres	Purchase Money	Military Bounty Land Warrants	Forfeited Land Stock
1841	5,045.52	\$ 6,367.30	200.00	521.31
1842	800.04	1,000.05		
1843	1,119.22	1,399.02		
1844	3,203.32	4,004.95		
1845	4,973.00	6,266.24		
1846	4,074.13	5,092.68		
1847	26,215.78	47,045.45		
1848	88,994.19	173,530.99	558.10	
1849	43,500.26	83,864.56		
1850	20,543.52	33,470.60		
1851	24,303.62	46,388.43		
1852	1,458.36	3,641.20		
1853	2,378.65	2,973.31		
1854	12,109.08	10,814.61		
1855	21,598.55	18,819.85		
1856				
1857		7,541.06		
1858		1,487.99		
1859		260.15		
1860		215.17		
1861		60.00		
1862		74.97		
1863		50.00		

Brookville-Indianapolis Table of Sales (Continued)

Date	Acres	Purchase Money	Military Bounty Land Warrants	Forfeited Land Stock
1864				
1865		\$ 200.00		
1866		297.13		
1867				
1868				
1869		888.56		
1870		6,336.27		
1871		418.37		

PORT WAYNE LAND OFFICE

Table of Sales

Date	Acres	Purchase Money	Military Bounty Land Warrants	Forfeited Land Stock
1823	3,274.08	\$ 9,502.03		
1824	114,975.00	1,343.73		
1825	3,403.18	5,261.79		
1826	2,041.06	2,551.31		
1827	2,212.45	2,765.31		
1828	1,113.25	1,391.43		
1829	6,658.25	7,824.52		
1830	23,301.69	29,271.41		
1831	52,496.14	66,930.99		
1832	59,227.73	74,655.55	\$2,648.55	\$ 32.00
1833	62,612.74	78,270.72	4,850.00	16.00
1834	96,350.30	120,438.11	3,658.33	100.01
1835	396,738.01	502,809.47	1,608.33	
1836	1,294,357.00	1,620,617.34	12,662.50	78.20
1837	492,756.00	616,216.41	5,483.75	
1838	203,448.57	254,310.86	2,823.96	
1839	136,392.08	170,495.23	450.00	
1840	17,001.03	21,251.38	125.00	
1841	11,450.23	14,312.81	295.00	
1842	4,900.03	6,125.04		

Fort Wayne Table of Sales (Continued)

Date	Acres	Purchase Money	Military Bounty Land Warrants	Forfeited Land Stock
1843	4,659.13	\$ 5,823.97	300.00	
1844	8,019.87	10,062.36		
1845	6,611.01	8,263.79	100.00	
1846	10,920.77	14,143.24		
1847	52,299.51	94,856.23	150.00	
1848	130,564.80	254,362.73	275.82	
1849	36,260.70	67,827.20		
1850	13,838.98	23,426.84		
1851	4,141.23	6,664.63		
1852	1,183.89	229.86		
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LA PORTE-WINAMAC LAND OFFICE

Table of Sales

Date	Acres	Purchase Money	Military Bounty Land Warrants	Forfeited Land etc
1833 ¹	24,371.66	\$ 30,500.58	125.00	
1834	86,709.73	108,387.16	1,036.66	
1835	474,494.66	678,217.88	300.00	
1836	470,290.70	589,732.63	11,859.37	
1837	113,489.70	143,392.97	1,862.50	
1838	78,609.13	98,444.12	2,125.00	
1839	87,596.75	109,911.42	250.00	
1840	19,991.09	24,982.86		
1841	38,256.14	47,831.63	100.00	
1842	25,161.78	31,456.22	25.00	
1843	17,284.10	21,665.92	225.00	
1844	24,459.15	30,614.58		\$ 25.00
1845	18,700.36	23,430.25	125.00	
1846	27,928.11	34,906.59		
1847	• 54,957.97	88,494.88		
1848	107,411.87	193,608.28		
1849	29,979.35	48,345.83		
1850	24,320.71	32,739.69		
1851	24,354.42	31,093.42		
1852	9,137.27	11,445.06		
1853	21,649.13	27,832.16		

¹General Land Office, Record of 3 and 5 per cent Fund Accounts, 1816-

La Porte-Winamac Table of Sales (Continued)

Date	Acres	Purchase Money	Military Bounty Land Warrants	Forfeited Land Stock
1854	34,826.37	\$41,604.55		
1855	2,295.56	2,046.90		

SALES OF INDIANA PUBLIC LANDS UNDER THE CREDIT SYSTEM

Date	Acres Sold	Purchase Money
1807 ²	51,961.62	\$ 106,247.55
1808	34,230.99	68,461.98
1809	39,163.02	78,326.04
1810	43,431.91	86,863.82
1811	53,300.52	106,601.00
1812	45,027.58	99,057.16
1813	59,719.23	119,758.46
1814	166,312.13	332,624.26
1815	187,802.43	375,604.84
1816	527,257.54	1,203,712.45
1817	482,588.54	966,499.76
1818	576,112.01	1,154,934.08
1819	201,153.18	402,306.36
1820 (June 30)	22,675.47	45,351.44
(Net sales under credit system)	(1,678,639.82)	(\$3,524,161.18)
Total sales	2,490,736.17	\$5,137,350.20

²Senate Documents, 27 Cong., 3 sess., 1842-1843, IV, no. 246 (ser. no. 416), 5. Totals of acreage sold and money received under the credit system 1800-1820 are extremely difficult to determine because of the great number of land forfeitures and the use by the government of a fiscal rather than a calendar year as a bookkeeping period. From 1820-1849 the calendar year was used; after 1849 the Department of the Interior again instituted the fiscal year accounting system. In general, tables herein presented for the period 1807-1820 and 1849-1871 follow the fiscal year system, and those between 1820 and 1849 the calendar year.

CASH SALES IN INDIANA

Date	Acres	Purchase Money
1820	165,482.02	
1821	264,578.38	
1822	252,982.34	\$ 329,066.71
1823	163,046.69	211,157.27
1824	154,558.51	187,508.05
1825	162,270.71	210,248.25
1826	200,190.72	250,238.20
1827	209,691.21	263,065.62
1828	250,812.81	313,517.45
1829	346,527.51	435,571.32
1830	476,351.85	598,115.55
1831	554,436.78	694,863.31
1832	546,844.24	684,209.69
1833	554,681.78	693,522.40
1834	673,656.44	842,170.84
1835	1,586,904.85	2,075,571.56
1836	3,245,344.13	4,061,492.68
1837	1,249,817.97	1,564,653.06
1838	602,424.54	753,419.27
1839	618,748.31	773,998.95
1840	118,868.53	148,645.20
1841	93,882.96	117,425.40
1842	55,795.31	69,748.09

Cash Sales in Indiana (Continued)

Date	Acres	Purchase Money
1843	50,545.83	\$ 63,243.01
1844	107,278.24	134,106.24
1845	78,562.90	98,260.48
1846	115,742.73	145,170.88
1847	227,387.51	347,826.12
1848	396,113.38	707,967.52
1849	170,508.86	276,060.28
1850	106,708.41	154,656.95
1851	105,513.02	150,037.41
1852	37,694.02	49,231.57
1853	62,045.76	78,781.72
1854	397,991.06	129,447.26
1855		
1856)		
)	39,802.21	23,975.46
1857)		
1858		1,487.99
1859		260.15
1860		215.17
1861		160.00
1862		74.97
1863		50.00
1864		00.00
1865		200.00

Cash Sales in Indiana (Continued)

Date	Acres	Purchase Money
1866		\$ 297.13
1867		00.00
1868		00.00
1869		883.56
1870		6,336.27
1871 ³		418.37

³General Land Office, Record of 3 and 5 per cent Fund Accounts, 1816-1876.

